

SAUQUOIT VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL  
Sauquoit, NY 13456

**Date of Meeting:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026

**Kind of Meeting:** Budget Workshop & Regular

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

**Members Present:** Anthony Nicotera, President; Lynn Weibel, Vice President; Patricia Collins; Ronald Critelli; Cathy Pumilia; and Mike Sacco.

**Members Absent:** Mike Makuszak.

**Administration Present:** David Stayton, Superintendent  
Charles Cowen, Business Administrator

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

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

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

**Budget Workshop:** Charlie Cowen, Business Administrator gave a brief overview of an initial proposed budget for 2026-2027. The initial proposal has an increase of 4.81% or \$1,308,201 over the 2025-26 budget. Holding the tax levy to the tax cap of 2.94% for 2026-27 and factoring in other adjustments to revenues, including State Aid and miscellaneous other revenues, there is a preliminary budget gap for 2026-27 of approximately \$1.03 million. Increases to employee benefit costs and BOCES charges from year-to-year are projected to increase by about 10%. These expenditure areas are the primary factors in the initial projected budget gap. Mr. Cowen was not optimistic about additional funding from NYS and believes that addressing the budget deficit will require some significant savings from the proposed expenditures. Administration will continue to meet over the next several weeks to develop proposals for presentation to the BOE to address the budget deficit. Mr. Cowen answered questions from the board members and attendees.

**Presentations:** There was none.

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

- School Boards Institute (SBI) March 26 Herkimer BOCES Visitation
- Policy Committee will meet in March. An email with a date will be sent out.

**Superintendent's Report:** Mr. Stayton gave a brief comment on:

- Just a reminder: Board members are invited to the National Honor Society Induction Ceremony on Wednesday, February 25 in the High School Auditorium at 6 p.m.
- There are two (2) board members seats available. Candidate Petitions are available and due **Monday, April 20, 2026** by 5pm to the Board Clerk. Anyone interested can stop in the Superintendent's office and pick up a packet.
- 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 17, 2026 at 6p.m.- 8p.m. Zoom Program.
- 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 up for re-election.
- Sports updates- Kaylyn Dreidel, one of the varsity volleyball players stated that they lost a sectional game at Beaver River. They all played a great game. Girls' indoor track placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the recent sectionals; the boys' team placed 4<sup>th</sup>. Wyatt Kimball won the Section 3 shot put title.
- Pack the Pantry – to date the elementary school students and staff have collected 1,900 food items to benefit the Sauquoit Valley Friends & Neighbors. Alison Pirger stated that just today 561 items were brought in. There is another contest between administrators. The one with the most items will have to buy donuts.

**Old Business:** There was none.

**New Business:** Mr. Nicotera stated that action 7.1 to 7.10 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.

**Resolution No. 47:** made by Mr. Ronald Critelli, and seconded by Ms. Patricia Collins,

- to appoint Tara Durse as a per diem substitute teacher effective March 6, 2026.
- to accept the resignation of Maria Randall, bus driver effective January 27, 2026.
- to appoint Beth Nora as a mentor teacher to Megan Fiorentino, effective January 16, 2026 until the remainder of the 2025-26 school year.
- to approve Mae Listovitch as a per diem substitute teacher aide effective February 10, 2026.
- that the minutes of the January 27, 2026 meeting be approved.
- that the Treasurer's Reports of Balances for January 31, 2026 be approved as presented.
- that authorization be given regarding the payment of bills approved by the deputy claims auditor signed January 27, 2026.
- 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.

- to approve Alan Przestrzelski as a teacher aide effective February 23, 2026.
- to approve Kimberly Rinaldo as a teacher aide effective February 23, 2026.

**Carried: Ayes 6, and Nays 0.**

**Miscellaneous Topics:** Madalyn Fredericks announced that the senior class will be hosting a semi-formal dance/fundraiser on March 7, 2026. This will be a great way for students to interact with each other.

**Public to be Heard:** A mom spoke on her disapproval of 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade students moving up to the high school. She stated she will send a hand written letter to the board members via board clerk email.

**Resolution No. 48:** motion made by Mr. Mike Sacco, and seconded by Mrs. Cathy Pumilia, that the Board of Education go into executive session at 6:57 p.m. to discuss personnel.

**Carried: Ayes 6, and 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 7:56 p.m.

**Resolution No. 50:** made by Mrs. Cathy Pumilia, and seconded by Mr. Mike Sacco, that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

**Carried: Ayes 6, and Nays 0.**

Respectfully submitted,



Marie Goodman

Board Clerk