SAUQUOIT VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL
Sauquoit, NY 13456

Date of Meeting: Tuesday, October 13, 2026

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, Mike Makuszak, Mike Sacco, Ronald Critelli and Jennifer George.

Members Absent: No one.

Administration Present: David Stayton, Superintendent
Brian Read, Director of Instructional & Business Services

Ex-officio Student Board Member: Kaylyn Dreidel & Alexa Nolan

Others Present: Staff and community members signed in.

Pledge of Allegiance: The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Presentation(s)
Mr. Read welcomed Gregg Evans of The Bonadio Group, who presented an informative report on the 2025–2026 audit and shared the independent audit findings with the Board of Education. Mr. Nicotera emphasized the importance of ensuring that Mr. Evans clearly communicated the financial findings, particularly as the District prepares to make difficult financial decisions.

Ryan Decker presented information regarding the proposed music trip to New York City, scheduled for Friday, May 28, 2027, through Saturday, May 29, 2027. The estimated cost per student is $355. Mr. Decker noted that many students have raised a majority, if not all, of their trip expenses through fundraising efforts. Ms. George asked how many fundraisers are permitted each year.

Frank Curriere presented information regarding the proposed softball and baseball trip to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, scheduled for Monday, April 19, 2027, through Friday, April 23, 2027. He noted that baseball coach Allan Lallier was unable to attend the meeting. Ms. Weibel asked what the Board would be approving. Mr. Curriere clarified that the approval would include permission for students to wear district uniforms during the trip. Mr. Read noted that all student overnight trips require Board approval.

Sub-Committee Reports: *Board Operations/Relationships/Development:* Ms. Weibel

reported that the committee met and invited Michelle Babbie to discuss recent thematic issues that have been raised. The discussion was intended to help the Board prepare for upcoming budget deliberations.

School Boards Institute: Mr. Stayton reported that a legislative committee meeting was held on October 12, which the District did not attend.

Policy Committee: Mr. Stayton reported that the committee met prior to the Board meeting and will present additional policies for review at the November 10 Board meeting.

Superintendent's Report: Mr. Stayton expressed his appreciation to the Board of Education in recognition of Board Appreciation Week, thanking members for the time and dedication they give to the District. He also discussed upcoming Homecoming events and shared his enjoyment of seeing the school spirit and pride throughout the District. Additionally, he announced that Trick or Treat Street will take place on October 23 and will include 5th and 6th grade students this year. Mr. Stayton also discussed a proposed restructuring plan that would consolidate the District into two buildings. The proposal aims to improve staff and student efficiency, enhance safety, and reduce operational costs.

Old Business: There was none.

New Business: Mr. Nicotera stated that action 7.1 to 7.22 will be read as a consent motion and will 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. Stayton announced a modification to item 7.11, including a title change to "Bus Driver/Teacher Aide." He also extended his best wishes to Christine DeCarolis and Kim Pye upon their retirement.

Mr. Sacco wished Claire Haile well and thanked her for her time and contributions to the District.

Mr. Critelli thanked Claire Haile for her contributions to the District and reflected fondly on the elementary concerts, noting that the students' enjoyment of her class was evident.

Resolution No. 15: made by Mr. Makuszak, and seconded by Mr. Sacco,

- to appoint Luke Fredsell as a per diem substitute teacher, effective October 14, 2026.
- to appoint Reese Snyder as a per diem substitute teacher, effective October 14, 2026.
- to appoint Philymena Dikar as a per diem substitute teacher, effective October 14, 2026.
- to appoint Jenna Palmitesso as a per diem substitute nurse, effective October 14, 2026.
- to appoint Theodore Eichhorn as a per diem substitute laborer, effective October 14, 2026.
- RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Sauquoit Valley Central School District, pursuant to all applicable Civil Service rules and regulations, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, does hereby appoint Henry Rieben to the position of Bus Driver/Teacher Aide effective September 21, 2026.
- RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Sauquoit Valley Central School District,

pursuant to all applicable Civil Service rules and regulations, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, does hereby appoint Joseph Roche to the position of Bus Driver contingent upon completion of all Article 19A DMV Regulations, effective September 1, 2026 for a probationary period of 26 weeks to commence on September 1, 2026 and expire on March 1, 2027.

- **RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Sauquoit Valley Central School District, pursuant to Oneida County Civil Service does hereby appoint Jessica Kechiche permanently to the position of teacher aide based upon her successful completion of her probationary period effective October 15, 2026.
- to accept the retirement of Kim Pye, Bus Driver, effective October 8, 2026.
- to accept the resignation of Claire Haile, music teacher, effective November 20, 2026.
- to accept the retirement of Christine DeCarolis, bus driver/teacher aide, effective December 23, 2026.
- to approve Reese Snyder, as elementary volunteer, effective October 14, 2026.
- to approve the agreement between the County of Oneida by and through the Oneida County Sheriff's Office and the Sauquoit Valley Central School District for the School Special Patrol Officer effective September 1, 2026 to August 31, 2028.
- to award the bid for snow removal services in the 2026-2027 school year to Marcano General Services in the amount of $54,000 in accordance with Board Policy 4501 and on the basis of best value as defined in Section 163 of the State Finance Law.
- to approve the revised/reviewed policies/regulations listed below:
  a. Policy 5003 Required Drills
  b. Policy 5035 Notification of Pesticide Application **(DELETE)**
  c. Policy 5035 Pesticide Use and Notifications
  d. Policy 6019 Unpaid Coaches
  e. Regulation 6019.1 Sauquoit Valley Central School Volunteer Assisting A Coach **(DELETE)**
  f. Policy 7007 Implementation of NYS Education Law § 3201-b
  g. Policy 7033 Fundraising at Sauquoit Valley Central School District K-12
  h. Regulation 7033.1 Fundraising Request Form
- to accept the 2025-2026 independent audit report for the Sauquoit Valley Central School District as prepared by the Bonadio Group.
- to accept the 2025-26 extra-classroom audit report as prepared by the Bonadio Group.
- that the minutes of the September 8, 2026 meeting be approved.
- that the Treasurer's Reports of Balances for August & September 2026 be approved as presented.
- that the August & September 2026 extra-classroom activity reports be approved as presented.
- that authorization be given regarding the payment of bills approved by the claims auditor signed September 17 and October 5, 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, 001401553, 001401855, 001401793, 001401767, 001400625, 001401107, 001402112, 001401205, 001400962, 001401221, 001401655, 001402197, 001401594, 001400646, 001401307, 001400901, 001402040, 001401725, 001400753, 001400299, 001401418,

001400474, 001400364, 001400834, 001401140, 001402209, 001400739 and 001402102 as recommended by the Committee on Special Education.

Carried: Ayes 6, Nays 0, Abstain 1 (Ms. Collins).

Miscellaneous Topics: Mr. Nicotera thanked Mike and Laura Flagg for taking the time to meet with him and praised Mr. Flagg for his leadership. He congratulated Alexa Nolan on a successful tennis season and asked the student Board members how their school year was going so far. Mr. Nicotera also expressed interest in receiving a future transportation update, including how potential District restructuring may affect transportation services.

Alexa Nolan provided an update on the tennis season and expressed her appreciation for the coaches and her teammates.

Kaylyn Dreidel provided an update on the soccer season and reflected on senior night.

Mr. Nicotera referenced an article in the latest edition of NYSSBA's *On Board* and provided clarification regarding funding for field trips.

Public to be Heard: Michelle Babbie, SVTA President, expressed ongoing concerns regarding the impact of staff and program reductions on students and staff. She emphasized the importance of ensuring the District has the resources necessary to preserve staffing and programs to adequately meet the needs of both students and staff. Ms. Babbie also expressed her appreciation to the Board for listening to these concerns and working collaboratively to develop solutions.

Ms. Weibel expressed her appreciation for the strong public turnout at the meeting. She asked for clarification on how the current concerns differ from a similar concern raised by a parent in the past. She expressed hope that the Board and District can work collaboratively to find a solution that will serve the needs of students and staff in the years ahead.

Resolution No. 16: made by Ms. Collins, and seconded by Ms. George that the Board of Education go into executive session at 6:58 p.m. to discuss personnel.

Carried: Ayes 7, Nays 0.

Resolution No. 17: made by Mr. Sacco, and seconded by Ms. Weibel that executive session was declared over at 7:29 p.m.

Carried: Ayes 7, Nays 0.

Resolution No. 18: made by Ms. Collins, and seconded by Mr. Makuszak that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Carried: Ayes 7, Nays 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Shaw

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Board Clerk