

**LAFAYETTE CENTRAL SCHOOL  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Regular Board Meeting  
July 23, 2015**

**I. Opening**

A. Call to Order - President Dodge called the meeting to order at approximately 5:30pm. Present were: President Matthew Dodge, Vice President Mark Johnson, Trustees M. LaCava, J. Keefe, T. Scofield, M. Whitney, D. Dodge, Superintendent Laura Lavine, School Business Official Tiffany Turner, Administrators Jen Blossey, Susan Osborn, Diane Ellsworth, Jim Chupaila, Karen Ocque, District Clerk Kasey McHale, Jim Kesler, Interim Transportation Supervisor Dave Deuel, Ron Cooper, Jackie Steiger, Tim Baker, Christine Baker, Cathleen Clemens, Sean Griffin, Scott Perry, Rhonda Zajac, Ellen Coulter, Maggie Coulter, Chris Gray, Anne Courtwright, Amy Johnson, Donna Maines, Darren Dodge, Erin Virnoche, Karen Hart, Ann Schaefer, Tom LaRose.

B. Pledge of Allegiance - Led by President Matthew Dodge

C. Opening Remarks - President Dodge welcomed all to the meeting and announced that Board Members are going into Executive Session at the start of the meeting.

**II. Executive Session**

A. Enter into Executive Session

1. Motion By: Trustee Keefe, seconded by Trustee Scofield
2. Vote: 7-0-0
3. Time in: 5:31pm

B. Reconvene into Open Session

1. Motion By: Trustee LaCava, seconded by Trustee D. Dodge
2. Vote: 7-0-0
3. Time out: 5:34 pm

**III. Approval of Minutes**

A. Regular Minutes - July 6, 2015

Motion By: Trustee LaCava, seconded by Trustee Johnson

Vote:            Yes - 7            No - 0            Abstain - 0

B. Reorganizational Minutes - July 6, 2015

Motion By: Trustee LaCava, seconded by Trustee Johnson

Vote:            Yes - 7            No - 0            Abstain - 0

#### **IV. District Presentations and Reports**

A. Presentations - Sean Griffin gave a presentation on Capital Project updates, had a powerpoint picture presentation. "Progressing well, a lot of things still left to finish up before the end of summer. Site work at Grimshaw well underway, stone lay down, hoping to start paving next week and pouring sidewalks in the front loop. base and binder first in paving on west lot, then will start working on drop off point. Inside started on new main office and kitchen area, new serving line will be here hopefully next week. finishing up abatement in basement, hope to have clean air at the first part of next week. big power shut down at HS tomorrow, 7/24, to get all new power updates. big picture has a paper barrier around it, new brick work will start soon. mason inside is out of the way and new walls for classrooms are up, painters started today. music suite, sheetrocking all the walls, soundproof sheetrock, main office is studded out and roughed in with electrical, plumber will finish up next week and it should start to look like an office space. art rooms, floors are patched in, nurses area has plumbers in there and should start sheetrocking next week." MW asked what complications have they run into? SG said nothing more you'd expect, some plumbing you didn't see coming, but not much. MW asked about material costs, SG said they are 7-8% contingency, on target. Have plenty of manpower to get the job done soon. Superintendent Lavine reviewed regents scores at JR/SR HS. Thank JC for putting document together. "when you look at scores over time, you tend to look at 5 years on, but this was 3 years. Common Core, newer, more difficult test, and assumed common core curriculum put together but will be discussed later. ELA Common Core (11th grade), numbers of students took the test and percentages. Last year 100% passed with 65% or higher, this year 80% or higher. We want our students to not only pass but achieve mastery (85%), this year 42% achieved it, last year 36% did. \*Document up on projector, went through all exams\* Laura has made notes as to areas of concern, areas of improvement, and while anything that's not 100% could improve, we are happy with the growth we've seen. Teachers PK-12 have gotten together for 3 days to look at Common Core and understand curriculum development. This is not static, but a dynamic process. SS finished up their work today, but will be meeting throughout the year. Curriculum continually needs to change and adjust to the student's response. Common Core learning standards are standards, set by NYS, to be something our students can leave with and must meet. Curriculum is not standard, but the body of knowledge so the students can achieve those standards. Not resources. Common Core being thrown down our throats, curriculum is locally developed, voiced by School Board, vs. resources we use. MJ asked Karen Ocque, director of Instruction and instructor or Pupil Services, if she had gotten into the curriculum yet. It started in spring, ELA and science are coming up. Laura asked Tim Baker to explain what happened the past few days, he agreed that this is not

static but dynamic. Said Karen shared documents via Google to everyone that staff can access, change, use anywhere there's an internet connection, was helpful. One principal is assigned to each of the 4 common core areas. S. Osborn was assigned to SS. SO said this is the first time in over 20 years different level area teachers could be together, see what each other is teaching and using and it was great to see them communicating. Community member asked what kind of PD is being offered to staff members to get acclimated to this. KO explained how they will be utilizing SD days or ½ days to understand student development (as we adjust to School Tool), also principals will be involved as we explore new content. Ms. Lavine moved to discuss changes in the LTA contract. Explained that the District and LTA go page by page and negotiate language with lawyers. The Board must approve any changes. The negotiations started in March. LTA had 8 people including lawyer, District had 3 including lawyer. Both sides get together to discuss why someone would want to change something, why not, leave and come back. Explained the proposed changes on which the Board needs to vote. Went through "red-marked" changes. A contract cannot be contrary to the law but can exceed the law. The difference between the 2.5% increase that was budgeted and a 4% teacher raise is coming from a difference in the co-pay plan. DD asked how many negotiation meetings took place before the information was presented to the Board. Community member asked if we'd be going from one of the worst paying schools to one of the best, Tiffany Turner explained that by comparing to the other 4 schools we compare ourselves to, we are 2nd lowest. It's tough to tell exactly where we'd fall after this language passes because other districts are negotiating but they are hoping this would put us in the middle. Community member asked class sizes, administrators gave averages. Also asked if Board members have gotten official documentation to sign rather than a 'red-marked'. Com. Member asked how our school compares to those other schools with regents scores, and she believed we were last out of 5, and would like information. Teacher salaries cause and effect to student achievement, comm. member question. Commun. Members explained that students feel unprepared when going to college (her kids went to private school). President Dodge said we were steering off of Contract Negotiations. Comm. Member commended the District for getting the District to compare to other district and leading to improvement. Superintendent Lavine said this was the most extraordinary negotiations she has ever been a part of, as all listened to each other and compromised. But the primary focus was the students and improvement in all areas. Tim Baker asked if savings was heavier on the premium side of the prescription plans. Community Member asked why can't the public vote, Pres. Dodge explained this is based on the Taylor Law which assigns the duty of voting to the Board. Com. Member asked if Board can be a part of negotiations, some Districts they are. Pres. Dodge said that Board appointed Tiffany and Laura as school negotiators and the Board was updated well throughout the process. A topic of discussion could come up to involve Board

members in negotiations, and most Board members in other Districts do not want to put themselves in that position. Com. Member would like to know if in the future there could be more than just "it's going well" presented to the Board as updates.

B. Oral Communications - None

## **V. Old Business** - None

## **VI. New Business**

A. Board of Education Retreat Dates 8/4, 8/6, 8/20

B. Tour of Capital Project at Retreat Date - hopefully the 4th or the 6th?  
Tiffany --I can't hear Matt..

C. Prayer Group Meetings at High School - Super. Lavine presented an email from Pastor Dave Booher, Youth Pastor LaFayette Alliance Church, regarding coming in to discuss himself, someone else, or a combination coming in after school hours to lead a prayer group for various student needs. Jim Chupaila did speak with him. Limited Open Forum, these types of meetings must take place outside of school day, but may use the building. Board Policy describes the District as participating in Limited Open Forum. Some Districts have students before school go out to the flag pole and have prayer, others have prayer or Bible study after school, this is considered LOF. he's very interested in just helping the school. Also discussed sponsoring events here at school, then taking proceeds and donating them to a charity of student's choice. Separation of Church and State, but this doesn't exclude a prayer group from coming into the building. An employee of the district has to attend, but not engage. MJ said a couple teachers have volunteered to be a part of this, he thinks it's a great idea and benefit of school. MW trying to understand, if the youth group that already exists and most of our students are a part of it, is this to recruit new members, JC said he believes it's convenient for students who are already here to stay in one location and still participate. A. Courtwright asked would something like this be after the after school activity time, so students wouldn't have to choose between activities. This will be consulted with the school attorney, as well. JC said he would contact Pastor Booher to see if he could attend the next meeting to present what he would be looking to do. MW would like to do another meeting, not 8/13. JC will get dates from him and get them to Laura Lavine to pass to the Board.

## **VII. Superintendent's Report** - see Presentations.

## **VIII. Consent Agenda**

A. Approval of Board Action Items

1. Approve BOCES Agreement for Facility Use and Provision of Ancillary Services 2015-2016
  2. Approve BOCES Authorization Signatures for Additional Services
  3. Approve BOCES Equivalent of Attendance Program Agreement
  4. Approve BOCES Employment Preparation Education Program Agreement
  5. Approve Resolution BOCES Adult and Continuing Education
  6. Approve Annual BOCES Cooperative Bidding Resolution Notification
  7. Approve Potential Change Order's List
  8. Approve BOCES RIC Contract 2015-2018
  9. Approve CPSE/CSE Recommendations
  10. Approve LTA Contract - separate vote\*\*
- B. Approval of Personnel Items
1. Approve Instructional Appointment 2015-2016
  2. Approve Substitute Appointment 2015-2016
  3. Approve Annual Appointments 2015-2016
  4. Approve Clerical Appointment 2015-2016
  5. Approve Non-Instructional Appointment 2015-2016

DD asked about #7 - where is this money coming from? TT responded that this is still under the threshold of things we anticipated, it is part of the budget. MW asked if it was part of an overage, but it's part of the contingency we have. Also asked about BOCES classroom use, it is at HS.

VIII. A.

Motion By: Trustee Scofeild, seconded by Trustee LaCava

Vote: Yes - 7 No - 0 Abstain - 0

VIII. B.

Motion By: Trustee Johnson, seconded by Trustee Whitney

Vote: Yes - 7 No - 0 Abstain - 0

VIII. A. 10: LTA Contract Changes

Motion By: Trustee Scofield, seconded by Trustee Johnson

Vote: Yes - 4 No - 3 Abstain - 0

Congratulations (from Super. Lavine) to Cathleen Clemens from ONS, and to Ron Cooper, new transportation supervisor. Welcome aboard from Pres. Dodge. Vanessa, new GS secretary is currently in labor. She will start 8/17. Will be a great addition. D. Ellsworth, K. Walker, new TA.

## **IX. Board Non-Action Items**

## **X. Communications**

**XI. Calendar Review** - 8/2 and 4 - BOE Retreat, 8/13 BOE meeting. Final retreat 8/20.

A. Upcoming Events

## **XII. Financial Reports-FYI**

A. Potential Change Order's List

## **XIII. Closing Remarks**

A. Public Communications to the Board - A. Courtwright, thanks to those voting on the contract. In the past LTA was part of retreats for communication, would there be thought to invite them again? Pres. Dodge thinks it would be a good idea. 8/4 is cap. project update so that'd be tough, but maybe another day if it's good for them. MW said there has been talks of getting together on other occasions as well. LL said she'd work with AC to get dates to come together.

## **XIV. Executive Session**

A. Enter into Executive Session

1. Motion By:
2. Vote:
3. Time In:

B. Reconvene into Open Session

1. Motion By:
2. Vote:
3. Time Out:

## **XV. Adjournment**

A. Adjourn the Meeting

Motion By: Trustee Scofield, seconded by Trustee D. Dodge

Vote: Yes - 7 No -0 Abstain -0

Time: 7:43 pm