

LaFayette Central School District
Board of Education - Regular Meeting
Location: LaFayette Jr/Sr High School - Auditorium
3122 US Route 11 North
LaFayette, New York 13084
January 14, 2021

I. Opening

- A. Call to Order - the regular Board of Education meeting for the Lafayette Central School district was called to order at 5:30 pm by President Reyburn. In attendance were Trustee J. LeBlanc, C. Dwyer, M. Walker, M. Whitney, J. Gates, Superintendent Jeremy Belfield, School Business Manager and Deputy Clerk Cindy Daley.
1. Guests in attendance: Simone Gonyea, Amy Roe-Ryan
 2. Virtual Guests: Ronald H. Reyburn, Kayleigh Olrich, Richard Weslowski, Faith Graham, Coleby Felber, Phoenix Wiers, Hollis Rotella, Trisha Fogarty, Jacob Park, Tonia Andersen, Krimson Carmona, Elias Adjima, Karen Ocque, Jason P. Ryan, Devin Baker, Sue Osborn.
- B. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Reyburn at 5:30 pm
- C. Opening Remarks - R. Reyburn asked if there were any corrections that needed to be placed on the agenda.

II. Approval of Minutes - R. Reyburn asked if there were any changes to the December 10, 2020 meeting. **There were no changes.**

- A. Regular Minutes - December 10, 2020 - Approved.

Vote: Yes: 6

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 0

R. Reyburn commented on the layout of the minutes and stated a first and second motion is needed only when there is a change to the agenda of the minutes up for approval.

III. District Presentation

- A. Legend of Learning January 2021 - The board recognized Ms. Andrea Amidon as the Legend of Learning for January 2021. Ms. Amidon was nominated by a colleague who shared the following: " I am nominating Ms. Andrea (Ona) Amidon for her outstanding commitment to education. She is highly dedicated to seeing to it that her students get everything they need to succeed. She is very patient with her students, and all of those she works with." Thank you to Ms. Amidon for her assistance with technology and her commitment to her school community.
- B. Recognition - JoAnne Powless - NCTE Charlotte High Award for outstanding Fiction. The board recognized Ms. JoAnne Powless was recently named to the prestigious "Charlotte Huck Award for Outstanding Fiction for Children" judges panel! She becomes one of seven judges who will be responsible for deciding

each year's winner in the fiction category, which means she'll have plenty of reading to do! Joanne was selected for this three-year membership to the committee by the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE). The award was established in 2014 to promote and recognize excellence in the writing of fiction for children. In particular, the award recognizes fiction that has the potential for transforming children's lives by inviting compassion, imagination, and wonder. JoAnne is a fantastic writing teacher. Ms. Powless did not attend this meeting.

IV. Old Business

- A. Student Safety - Superintendent Belfield updated the board on the recent District Health and Safety Meeting that was held on Tuesday January 12th. Safety team members discussed the results of lead in water testing which was completed during the months of November. Results from the water testing are posted on the district website on the facilities webpage - also reported to the county and state departments. Four fixtures failed and were either taken out of service or labeled that they should not be used for drinking water - for hand washing purposes only. Certain fixtures will be replaced and retested. The committee reviewed the annual visual inspection, updates on the capital project, the safety drill log, employee injury reports - No injuries last year. Thanks to everyone for promoting safety. Thanks to John, Tony and Austin for taking care of the parking lots and the walkways. The committee will meet again on April 14th and June 9th. Future topics include updates to the emergency response plan, submission of the pandemic response/communicable diseases plan, and the annual review of the wellness policy.
- B. Online Safety & Security - Superintendent Belfield recently met with representatives from the Central New York Regional Information Center. CNYRIC is in the process of finalizing contracts with vendors so that districts can purchase risk assessments and other security related services. The team is working on a proposal for the district to increase email security using MimeCast, which is a scanning software for email. The district is also finalizing the setup of InfoSec IQ, which is a training program to help staff members implement best practices for information security.

Trustee Whitney asked about the cost of MimeCast. Mr. Belfield responded that there is a fee per email address and for every email that is identified in that domain it will scan all email tracks to make sure there is nothing malicious to the attachments or links. This is available through BOCES so it is an aidable service. It is in the stage of being finalized and will roll out next week. R. Reyburn asked about InfoSec IQ picking up on other linked emails being also scanned. Mr. Belfield responded that it picks up on LaFayette email only - not to be quoted.

V. Communications

- A. Board Member Updates - No Board Member Updates

VI. New Business - No new business

VII. Superintendent Report

- A. Superintendent Belfield thanked the community for approving the capital project referendum held on December 10, 2020. Voters approved an \$8.6M project which will address all of the high priority infrastructure items listed on our last building condition survey. Improvements will also include a renovation of the Library Media Center at Grimshaw, STEM learning spaces in the High School, renovate the Auditorium Lobby to include an Academic Hall of Fame, and improve air quality and add air conditioning to second floor classrooms and certain common spaces. The design team has scheduled several meetings on Tuesday January 19th to meet with stakeholders and talk about ideas for the planned renovations. An invite to the Hall of Fame was set out this week via email. Thanks to Trustee LeBlanc and Trustee Walker for their contribution. The construction team also toured the existing spaces last week to inspect existing conditions, take pictures, etc.
- B. Superintendent Belfield thanked the staff and students for their continued efforts to continue learning and stay connected during the pandemic. The months of November and December presented challenges as the district experienced a number of positive cases resulting in students, staff members, and other close contacts having to experience quarantines. Thankfully, any students or staff who have been infected with the virus have recovered quickly. Our thoughts continue to be with individuals who have been impacted during the pandemic. Prior to the December holiday break, a number of staff members were quarantined or had young children who were subject to quarantine which resulted in the district having to switch to remote learning for two days. LaFayette High School experienced a positive case yesterday discovered during our asymptomatic testing clinic. Due to the number of staff in quarantine, the High School has switched to remote instruction from January 14-January 22 and plans to resume in person instruction on January 25. Superintendent Belfield thanked students, their families, and staff members for their flexibility and understanding during this challenging time. Mr. Belfield also thanked the substitute teachers.
- C. Superintendent Belfield recently corresponded with the Onondaga Nation Council of Chiefs, Clanmothers, and Faithkeepers. Due to the spread of the virus among Onondaga Nation residents, Council has shared that the Onondaga Nation School should remain closed for in person instruction for the duration of the year. Council also does not plan to hold ceremonies on days when school is in session and recommended that the school calendar for the Onondaga Nation School be adjusted to align with other schools in the district. Superintendent Belfield referenced the adjusted calendar which was recently added to the consent agenda prior to tonight's meeting. ONS will be off on Monday January 18th and will observe a February break. Superintendent Belfield wished all those suffering from the virus a quick and speed recovery. The calendar may be adjusted one more time due to Ceremonies. Thanks for your patience and understanding.
- D. Superintendent Belfield updated the board on efforts to assist school employees with obtaining the COVID vaccine. Employees were given information for signing up for the vaccine through the New York State Health Department and a priority link for school employees through Onondaga County. County Executive Ryan McMahan suggested that employees with underlying health conditions should

sign up first and those ages 50 years old and up should sign up next. Several employees have scheduled vaccination appointments or already received their first dose. Superintendent Belfield urged employees to be patient and persistent with efforts to schedule vaccine appointments. It will likely take several weeks to vaccinate all those currently eligible. Due to the increase in the number of requests to be vaccinated it is going to become difficult to be vaccinated due to supply. The County cannot prioritize slots for school employees any more. This message will go out to staff and also how to go about getting an appointment slot. Superintendent Belfield thanked Onondaga County for all of their support for our school district during this challenging time.

- E. Superintendent Belfield was recently invited to participate on the Vaccine Equity Task Force. This five county consortium includes community organizations, health professionals, faith leaders, and community leaders. Onondaga Culture teacher Brad Powless is also serving on the task force as a representative for the Onondaga Nation. The goal of the task force is to make sure that the vaccine is distributed in an equitable fashion throughout the five county region. The task force discussed barriers such as access to sign up information, education around vaccine safety, transportation barriers, and reaching populations that might have limited access to health professionals. The task force meets several times between now and March and Superintendent Belfield will continue to advocate for the needs of rural communities such as LaFayette and the Onondaga Nation related to receiving access to the vaccine.

VIII. Policy Discussion

- A. Second reading with a third reading waiver- Superintendent Belfield shared that the following updates: The Records Management policy is being updated to align with the new retention schedule adopted by New York State Archives. Superintendent Belfield thanked School Business Manager Cindy Daley for her efforts to update the investment policy, which will increase opportunities for the district to improve revenues from interest. Also, Superintendent Belfield shared with the board that the district would like to update purchasing and procurement policies to include a standardization provision. Since the recently approved capital project will include planned upgrades to several mechanical systems, a standardization provision would allow the district to require contractors to purchase mechanical equipment that is standardized either within a school building or across multiple buildings.

- 1. Policy 5670 - Records Management
- 2. Policy 5220 - District Investments
- 3. Policy 1330 - Appointment and Designation by Board

Motion: **1st:** Trustee Gates **2nd:** Trustee Walker
Vote: Yes: 6 **No:** 0 **Abstain:** 0 **Absent:** 0

IX. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Board Action items
 - 1. CSE, CPSE and 504 Recommendations
 - 2. Budget Transfers - November 2020
 - 3. Treasurer's Report November 2020
 - 4. NYCLASS & NYLAF Resolutions
 - 5. Capital Project Bond Resolution
 - 6. Ratification of Capital Project Vote December 10, 2020
 - 7. Revised ONS 20-21 Calendar
 - 8. Auction Items

- B. Approval of Personnel Items
 - 1. Instructional Resignation
 - 2. Instructional LOA - Extension
 - 3. Non-Instructional Resignation
 - 4. Non-Instructional Appointment
 - 5. Substitute Appointment
 - 6. Annual appointment

Motion: **1st:** Trustee Walker **2nd:** Trustee LeBlanc
Vote: Yes: 6 **No: 0** **Abstain: 0** **Absent: 0**

X. Board Non-Action Items

- A. Strategic Plan Update- The District Comprehensive Improvement Committee met last week to share updates on efforts to improve student attendance, improve academic performance, and address the social/emotional and mental health needs of our students. Thanks again to Trustee LeBlanc for being a part of the Committee. Principals and administrative interns shared updates on efforts at the school level while Dr. Ocque shared updates from the school plans and the District's efforts to address those areas around attendance and academic performance.

XI. Financials

School Business Manager Daley reported on the financial status of the district. We received \$3.2 million in December for 80% of most of the 2019-20 billings related to educating Native American students. This means we are still technically owed another \$4.5 million. In addition, we will be sending out more interim billings this month for tuition and operations and maintenance. These payments are taking months to be released as the Division of Budget is making the decisions on when to fund all payments.

There is a large reduction in transportation expenses due to sports and after school activities being eliminated. This impacts both the General and Onondaga Nation funds. I'm currently looking at the potential impact on this year's costs as well as next year's revenues. Current year fund balance and 2021-22 budgeting need to be considered at the same time as the budget relies upon prior year expenditures in many areas. I am currently working on various pieces of fund balance and budget and will have more information over the next few weeks. We will also know more next week as the

Governor should be discussing his initial plans regarding school aids. As a reminder, our first budget meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 20.

President Reyburn asked about communication with Ron about vehicles sitting. Cindy Daley responded that they are being rotated.

- A. Warrants and Claims - November 2020
- B. Financials - November 2020
- C. Cash Flow - November 2020

XII. Calendar Review

A. Upcoming Events

- Early Dismissal for PLCs every Monday - 1:45 GS/ONS; 2:00 HS/BP
 - 1. January 18th - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- No School (All Schools)
 - 2. January 20th - Dollar Dog Day
 - 3. January 25th - Monday - Early Dismissal
 - 4. January 26th - 29th - Regents CANCELLED
 - 5. January 28th - BOE Meeting 5:30 pm at the Jr. Sr. High Auditorium

XIII. Public Comments

A. Public Communications to the Board - No communication. Mr. Belfield thanked the students for joining the meeting .

XIV. Proposed Executive Session - Subject to Board Approval

A. Enter into the Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the employment and medical history of particular individuals, and pending litigation at 6:00 pm.

Motion: **1st:** Trustee Dwyer **2nd:** Trustee Walker
Vote: Yes: 6 **No:** 0 **Abstain:** 0 **Absent:** 0

B. Reconvene into Open Session at 8:01 pm

Motion: **1st:** Trustee Gates **2nd:** Trustee LeBlanc
Vote: Yes: 6 **No:** 0 **Abstain:** 0 **Absent:** 0

XV. Adjournment

A. Adjourn the meeting at 8:02 pm

Motion: **1st:** Trustee Walker **2nd:** Trustee Dwyer
Vote: Yes: 6 **No:** 0 **Abstain:** 0 **Absent:** 0

Respectfully Submitted,
Paula Hibbert