

Thursday, October 8, 2015
LaFayette Central School Board of Education Regular Meeting

Location: Jr/Sr High School Library

5:30 pm

I. Opening

A. Call to Order - President Dodge called the meeting to order at approximately 5:32pm. In attendance were Vice President Johnson, Trustees Keefe, Whitney, LaCava and D. Dodge, Administrator Diane Ellsworth, James Chupaila, Superintendent Laura Lavine, School Business Official Tiffany Turner, and District Clerk Kasey McHale. Also in attendance were Sean Griffin, External Auditors Pat Powers, Oksana, Supervisors Jim Kesler, Ron Cooper, and Chris Gray.

B. Pledge of Allegiance - Led by President Dodge

C. Opening Remarks - President Dodge recommended the Board vote to go into Executive Session at the top of the meeting.

II. Executive Session

A. Enter into Executive Session - 5:33 pm

1st: MJ 2nd: ML

Vote: Yes- 6 No- 0 Abstain- 0 Absent- 1 (Scofield)

B. Reconvene into Open Session - 6:13 pm

1st: Keefe 2nd: Whitney

Vote: Yes- 6 No- 0 Abstain- 0 Absent- 1 (Scofield)

President Dodge left the meeting at 6:13 pm.

III. Approval of Minutes

A. Regular Minutes - September 24, 2015

1st: ML 2nd: JK

Vote: Yes- 4 No- 0 Abstain- 1 (Johnson) Absent-2 (M. Dodge, Scofield)

IV. District Presentations and Reports

A. Presentations

1. External Audit Presentation - D'Arcangelo LLP - handed out information to all board members, summarizing the audit. Mr. Powers described to the Board the Executive Summary, and suggested reviewing policies for financial information and new software procedures, as well as summarizing their findings for each area that was audited and describing their qualifications within their opinions and classifications. Superintendent Lavine expressed thanks to Mr. Powers, Oksana and their staff for their extensive work in the audit, the Board for decisions that lead to successful numbers for the District, and to School Business Official Tiffany Turner and her team for all of their work.

B. Oral Communications - Board Member Updates - Superintendent Lavine explained the addition of the words "Board Member Updates" and how this would be an assigned time for Board members to express their experiences, communications, etc.

IV. Old Business

V. New Business

VI. Superintendent's Report - Superintendent Lavine described her time at the Superintendent's convention, first meeting with the new commissioner whom the Board will meet on 10/22. She attended a Rural Schools Network Directors session, and asked the Board if they would be interested in having those team members come to present to

the Board on a future agenda. APPR implementation with LTA and Administration, applying for the waiver to allow for the whole year to further investigate implementation ideas. Open houses at ONS and HS, Apple King and Queen ceremonies, Social Media is up and running, another meeting regarding School Tool transition. Superintendent's Conference Day 10/9, Karen Ocque put together a day of activities for staff, and Apple Festival this weekend.

Trustee Whitney asked about where we stand on costs of the construction project. Superintendent Lavine explained that we are required to spend what the public voted on for the budget, or we lose that money. Money is available to work on the auditorium, and the plan is to use all of the money that was approved.

Trustee Whitney also stated he was uncomfortable with the chicken coop being placed outside of the entrance to Big Picture, due to a possible attraction of animals such as coy dogs, etc. If the coop was placed out back it would be less of a concern. VP Johnson asked why we were taking care of chickens, and Sup. Lavine explained that learning how to be responsible and taking care of the animals has been an important part of the Big Picture student experience.

Trustee LaCava said the girls volleyball is 10-0, having a strong season.

Sean Griffin and Chris Gray were invited to give a capital project update. Trustee LaCava asked the status of the Project Lead the Way and Mr. Griffin stated that there are two elements still to be finished. Mr. Griffin reported that we received bid results on the two packages sent out from the District. Mr. Gray reported they have also touched base with the school attorney and a report came back clear for the current status.

VII. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Board Action Items

1. Refunding Resolution
2. 2015 External Audit and Management Letter
3. Approve Awarding of Capital Project Bids
4. 504, CSE and CPSE Recommendations

1st: ML 2nd: JK

Trustee LaCava asked about contract negotiations with the the winners of the bid for timelines.

Vote: Yes- 5 No- 0 Abstain- 0 Absent-2 (M. Dodge, Scofield)

B. Approval of Personnel Items

1. Non-Instructional Appointment 2015-2016
2. Personal Time Off-No Pay Request - Tabled for the next meeting

1st: ML 2nd: JK

Trustee Whitney asked about the need for a hall monitor. Principal Chupaila stated that this gave supervision after school in the locker rooms for both genders.

Vote: Yes- 5 No- 0 Abstain- 0 Absent-2 (M. Dodge, Scofield)

VIII. Board Non-Action Items

A. Strategic Plan Update - Jr/Sr HS courses - meeting 10/8 to further the conversation of course offerings, Kevin Morel - coding club (son, Evan, after school activity as a student leader), discrete math suggestion as a course. Sean Zehner - robotics research for a course that would cover this information. Thoughts about a personal finance course. Bill O'Leary is meeting with grades 9-12 and survey them on what they would like to see offered from the courses suggested by staff and that are offered in other locations. Trustee Whitney asked about teaching schedules to include new courses. Superintendent Lavine explained that if we use current teachers, a possible answer would be relieving them of their study hall duty and giving that monitoring to a TA. Bill O'Leary, confirmed by Trustee O'Keefe, that the District used to have a business department. Business or keyboarding are also thoughts that are around. Virtual courses are available for areas of interest.

Student leadership - Principal's Council - update from Jim Chupaila - pep rally was a big success, a lot of enthusiasm on homecoming weekend. Principal's Council/to be named group, was the idea to increase communication between the principal and the student body - president and vp of junior and senior class, student council and honor society, 2

at large students of the student body and a representative or two from Big Picture, meet on regular basis. In other places where this type of group is done, it has been successful. Juniors and Seniors have time in the school and have an accurate view of what is going on in the school and valuable suggestions. Meeting with senior class officers went very well, another meeting is scheduled for middle of next week. A timeline for the principal's council will be discussed after the meeting with the officers to get their opinion. Asked about continuing of the blood drive, that is coming up at the end of the month. There is the concern about students losing academic time to give blood, but the goal is to have the students use their lunch or study hall if they are eligible. This is a community/student event, not just the school. The Red Cross does offer a scholarship, depending on how many pints of blood are generated from the drive.

IX. Communications

A. Public Communications to the Board

X. Calendar Review

A. Upcoming Events - from calendar*

XI. Financial Reports-FYI

XII. Closing Remarks

XIII. Executive Session

Trustee Dodge left the meeting at 7:24 p.m.

A. Enter into Executive Session - 7:25pm - collective negotiation language to include Ron Cooper and Jim Kesler.

1st: MW 2nd: JK

Vote: Yes- 4 No- 0 Abstain- 0 Absent-3 (M. Dodge, Scofield, D. Dodge)

Trustee Dodge returned at 7:26 p.m.

B. Reconvene into Open Session

1st: lacava 2nd: Don Dodge

Vote: Yes-8:24p.m. 6 No-0 Abstain-0 Absent-2 (M. Dodge, Scofield)

XIV. Adjournment

A. Adjourn the Meeting

1st: lacava 2nd: Keefe

Vote: Yes-6 No-0

8:25 p.m.