

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
November 17, 2021

I. Opening

- A. Call to Order - the regular Board of Education meeting for the Lafayette Central School district was called to order at 5:31 pm by President Reyburn. In attendance were Trustee J. LeBlanc, C. Dwyer, M. Walker, S. Stanton, J. Gates, Amy Roe-Ryan and Superintendent Jeremy Belfield.
 - 1. Guests in attendance - Susan Osborn, Winonah McCoy, James McKenna, Jennifer Blossey, Clair Virnoche, Tracey White, Michael Johnson
 - 2. Virtual Guests - Ashley Brown, Heather Castleman, Lisa Chapman, Oliver Knapp, Ashley Kolbeck, Lisa Kurtz, Teresa Miller, Karrie newkirk, Karen Ocque, Katherine Olrich, Leah Race, Dr. Race, Holly Schadt, Joanna Searle Doupe
- B. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Reyburn at 5:31 pm
- C. Opening Remarks - President Reyburn reminded the audience to address the Board as a whole. A moment of gratitude was held for an Onondaga Brethren.

II. Approval of Minutes -

- A. Regular Minutes - October 13, 2021
 - Section III G, page 4 (Edited)
 - Consent Agenda B - Motion (Edited)

Motion: Carried **1st:** Trustee LeBlanc **2nd:** Trustee Walker
Vote: Yes: 7 **No:** 0 **Abstain:** 0 **Absent:** 0

- B. Special Meeting Minutes - October 20, 2021 - No Change
- C. Special Meeting Minutes - November 1, 2021 - No Change

III. District Presentation

- A. [Legend of Learning November 2021](#) - The board recognized and congratulated Ms. Hollis Rotella, Teaching Assistant at LaFayette Big Picture School, as the Legend of Learning for November 2021. Hollis is dedicated to the success of our students and always makes students and staff feel welcome and supported.
- B. [Fall Athletics Update](#) - Athletic Director/Assistant Principal James McKenna updated the board on the fall 2021 sports season. Mr. McKenna's update included Registration for Student Athletes, Athletic Team Schedules and Transportation for Athletes. Mr. McKenna also gave a breakdown of sports and congratulated students. It was a successful season with several of our athletes and teams qualifying for postseason play. Superintendent Belfield and the Board thanked Mr. McKenna, our student athletes, and coaches for a great season. Mr. McKenna answered questions from Trustee Dwyer and Trustee LeBlanc. Mr. Belfield spoke on having conversations with the Southern Hills about the soccer teams and coaches.

- C. [Thank You Onondaga Nation](#) - The board expressed their appreciation to the Onondaga Nation for improving the student drop off loop at the front of the building. Nation work crews removed trees and paved a small portion of the front yard to provide a safe drop off location for students. The district requested funding from the state as early as 2018 to address this need; however, the state failed to allocate funding to address this project. Thank you to the Onondaga Nation for making sure that our students who are getting dropped off at school have a safe location for drop off and pick up.
- D. [5th and 6th Grade Robotics Program at Grimshaw Elementary](#) - Superintendent Belfield introduced Ms. Claire Virnoche, LaFayette Big Picture 401 student, who would like to start a Vex Robotics program for 5th and 6th graders at Grimshaw Elementary. Ms. Virnoche requested funding for the project to purchase supplies, materials, and robotics equipment for 20 - 40 students. Ms. Virnoche plans on visiting Grimshaw in the coming week to find out how many students are interested. Superintendent Belfield shared that he has been in touch with Principal Jennifer Blossey and we believe that there is sufficient funding available in the Grimshaw Elementary budget to fund this project. Trustee LeBlanc, Trustee Dwyer and President Reyburn commented.

IV. Old Business

- A. Student Safety - The district recently completed our school bus safety drill on November 9th. Superintendent Belfield thanked Mr. Cooper, our school bus drivers, and our students for making sure that we have a safety plan in place in the event that an emergency takes place on the school bus. Superintendent Belfield shared that Utica National Insurance Company recognized LaFayette Central School District with the 2021 Excellence in School Safety Award and a \$500 check. The district was recognized for policies and practices that promote the safety of students and staff. Superintendent Belfield thanked Paula Hibbert for compiling all of the information required to the safety award. Superintendent Belfield thanked Utica National Insurance and our insurance broker, Haylor, Freyer and Coon for their support of promoting safety in our district.
- B. Online Safety & Security - Superintendent Belfield shared that the Central New York Regional Information Center has formed a sub-committee to study a standard of care that districts should be following related to information security. The sub-committee will provide a list of recommendations that districts should follow to help make sure that schools and the CNYRIC are making sure that both local networks and wide area networks in our region have robust security measures in place to protect student and staff data.

V. Communications

- A. Board Member Updates - No Updates

VI. New Business - No New Business

VII. Superintendent Report

- A. Superintendent Belfield updated the board on the district's COVID response. Unfortunately, Grimshaw Elementary, LaFayette Jr/Sr High School and LaFayette Big Picture School have experienced a recent surge in cases. The district has reported a total of 91 COVID cases since

mid-August. For the period of November 1st through November 16th, we received reports of 39 COVID cases from students and staff. A total of 70 students and 21 staff members have been infected. The majority of these cases have been reported due to contacts within a student or staff member's family testing positive; however, we have experienced a few instances where individuals tested positive after coming into contact with a COVID positive individual at school. Superintendent Belfield thanked the nurses for keeping track and administrators for assisting with contact tracing. Superintendent Belfield encouraged families to continue to monitor symptoms for COVID, stay home when you are sick, and seek testing resources. Superintendent Belfield reached out to Dr. Indu Gupta to inquire about what strategies the school district should employ. Dr. Gupta encouraged students and staff to participate in weekly surveillance testing and to consider getting vaccinated to help reduce the risk of spreading COVID.

- B. Superintendent Belfield shared that Grimshaw Elementary will host a vaccine clinic for students ages 5-11 on Friday November 19, 2021 from 8:15-11:15 AM in the cafeteria. As of this Monday, 72 children were signed up for the vaccine. The vaccine clinic is being offered through Wegmans Pharmacy in partnership with Onondaga County Health Department and Upstate Medical University. Members of the district support team including school counselors, school psychologists, and Kyra the therapy dog will be on hand to support students and families during the clinic. Wegmans is also offering a booster shot clinic for staff members on Friday November 19th from 11:15-12:15. Over 40 staff members have signed up for a booster shot. Superintendent Belfield thanked Principal Jennifer Blossey, Wegmans Pharmacy, Onondaga County Health Department, Upstate Medical University, and our District Mental Health team for all of their assistance with the vaccine clinic. The district is working with the Onondaga Nation Health Clinic to schedule a vaccine clinic for students at the Onondaga Nation School.

Trustee Dwyer asked about ways to build immunity against COVID *example vitamins, supplements, diet... is there anything to get involved in..whether it is COVID or something else? Mr. Belfield answered..that's a good question. So the county health department..we wrote a grant with them to help encourage healthy living, healthy eating, healthy activity,. We have been working with them on our initial wellness policy..that's the first step. Also working with them to purchase additional equipment for physical education classes. We are also working with them on purchasing an open air merchandiser for the Onondaga Nation School. We have those at Grimshaw and the high school. Basically that's encouraging young kids/students to make healthy food choices for themselves. So putting on display just as you would a grocery store lots of health food choices to make selections themselves. We've had a lot of success here at the high school with salads. We also wrote a DASNY grant ... Senator Rachael Ray awarded it to us and is awaiting the final funding notification to come through. We'll convert one of our science classrooms in the D wing here at the high school for an indoor garden year round. We'll use the fresh fruits and veggies in our food service program to provide health options for kids for lunches. Then obviously encouraging physical activity. We had some great senior thesis projects, one in particular from Adam Schaefer 401. Adam really wanted to focus on encouraging kids for that*

hour of play to shut-down/put away electronics and get outside and play. So there are a number of things we are trying to encourage kids because with the pandemic it encourages kids to be more sedentary, have more screen time - unfortunately. So what we are trying to do is counter that by encouraging kids to get up, get active and start moving again. (edited from recording)

- C. Superintendent Belfield thanked our students and staff for a great homecoming parade on Friday October 22nd. Each class created a homecoming float and our students gathered in the front circle to celebrate our athletic teams and cheer them on for a successful fall sports season.
- D. Superintendent Belfield thanked the board for their support with incentivizing school bus drivers to come and work in LaFayette. Mr. Cooper has been able to attract and hire several new drivers thanks to the increase in compensation that the board is considering for adoption tonight. We are closer to having all of our regular routes covered with bus drivers and we are looking to bring on additional drivers and drivers in training to assist with substitute bus driving.
- E. Superintendent Belfield thanked our principals, Native American liaisons Shawna Booth and Edward Shenandoah, My Brother's Keeper Coordinator Meagan Smith, and community members from the Onondaga Nation to help honor Native American Heritage month during the month of November. Superintendent Belfield attended a presentation to our 7th grade Social Studies class on two-row wampum and watched as our high school physical education classes played long ball yesterday. We have also featured guest speakers, such as Tom Porter, and hosted a professional development session for staff sponsored by the Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation. Superintendent Belfield thanked our students and staff for helping to celebrate Native American history and culture during the month of November.
- F. Superintendent Belfield, Principal Simone Gonyea, and Trustee Jody Gates traveled to St. Regis Mohawk School on Friday November 5th to attend a press conference related to the capital funding needs for our three Nation schools. Trustee Roe-Ryan participated in the press conference via video call. All three Nation schools, Onondaga, Tuscarora, and St. Regis Mohawk School are in dire need of capital improvements and repairs. Since these buildings are owned by the New York State Education Department, the schools rely on state funding to make necessary repairs and improvements. The press conference highlighted the inequity that exists in funding these necessary improvements and the poor conditions of the facilities. Superintendents from Salmon River, LaFayette, and Niagara Wheatfield that operate the three Nation schools called on New York State Governor Kathy Hochul to address the need for adequately funding improvements at these three schools that serve Native American Youth. Each school has requested \$20M in funding to address current repairs and improvements and for funding to address future repairs to be allocated for each building annually. The Onondaga Nation School has not had a major renovation project since 1996.
- G. Southern Hills Girls Lacrosse
- H. National Honor Society Induction - Twelve students inducted. Mr. Belfield thanked Marie Edwards and the students for their hard work.
- I. Clear Path For Veterans - Mr. Belfield spoke on his tour of Clear Paths for Veterans. He saw how veterans with PTSD are supported. Trustee

LeBlanc mentioned the art work on the walls of the facility being done by LaFayette students.

- J. Breakfast at OCC - The District is working with Onondaga Community College. The aim is for students to attend the college and take advantage of college credit.
- K. Big Picture Exhibitions - This week at The Big Picture School.
- L. Capital Project Update - Currently waiting on approval from NYSED. Bids will be awarded in December.

VIII. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Action Items

1. CSE, CPSE, and 504 Recommendations
2. Treasurer's Report - July & August 2021
3. Affidavit of Collector August 19, 2021
4. Budget Transfers - July & August 2021
5. Budget Development Calendar 2022-2023
6. Standardization Resolution - Johnson Controls
7. Agreement with PEACE, Inc. Head Start on Preschool Special Education and Transition Services.
8. MOA with Non-Instructional Unit for Transportation Employees
9. MOA with LTA for LPN
10. Recommendation to Change Substitute Bus Driver Rate of Pay
11. Combining Contract with Skaneateles Girls Ice Hockey
12. Donation - Instruments
13. Donation - Winter Gear to ONS from DAR
14. Donation of School Supplies - LaFayette Alliance Church
15. Resolution - Change Order
16. Transportation Contract

Trustee Dwyer questioned the Standardization Resolution and Mr. Belfield answered.

Motion: Carried **1st:** Trustee Dwyer **2nd:** Trustee Roe-Ryan
Vote: Yes: 7 **No:** 0 **Abstain:** 0 **Absent:** 0

B. Approval of Personnel Items

1. Salary Increase for Graduate Hours for Teachers
2. Resignation
3. Leave of Absence
4. Substitute Appointment
5. Non-Instructional Appointment
6. Winter Coach Appointment
7. Approval of Agreement with School Business Manager
8. Approval of Employment Agreement with Peter Mahunik, Interim School Business Administrator
9. Personnel Recommendations - Non District Personnel

Motion: Carried **1st:** Trustee LeBlanc **2nd:** Trustee Stanton
Vote: Yes: **No:** 7 **Abstain:** 0 **Absent:** 0

- IX. Board Non-Action Items
 - A. Strategic Plan Update - EL Education - Admin Visit to 2nd Grade. Mrs. Silvestro's class is working on story development - group discussion, learning target and understanding concepts.

- X. Financials - FYI - Mr. Belfield thanked Mrs. Reppi for doing a great job with tax collections and also thanked the taxpayers. Mr. Belfield also spoke on the final cost report for the capital project. Cindy Daley, our School Business Manager will be moving on to new adventures. Peter Mahunik Interim School Business Manager will be in and a job posting will go out for the position.

- XI. Calendar Review
 - A. Upcoming Events
 - Early Dismissal for PLCs every Monday - 1:45 GS/ONS; 2:00 HS/BP
 1. November 19th - ½ day at ONS and GS
 2. Nov. 24th - 26th- Thanksgiving Recess - No School district wide
 3. December 1st - GS Picture Retake Day
 4. December 3rd - ONS Picture Retake Day
 5. December 4th - Dís'áh/ Disuh Long nights short days
 6. December 8th - Grimshaw Winter concert 7:00 p.m.
 7. December 14th - Jr. Sr. High Winter Music Concert 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
 8. December 15th - BOE Meeting @ Big Picture 5:30 p.m.

- XII. Public Comments
 - A. Public Communications to the Board
 - Mr. Johnson spoke about his experience with COVID. He stated his opinion on COVID, COVID vaccine and wearing masks. - *Mr. Johnson shared CDC data that approximately 375,000 Americans died in 2020 from Covid 19 without an available shot. In 2021 approximately 442,856 passed with several shots available. (edit received from Trustee Dwyer 12.14.2021)* Mr. Johnson asked about the NYS metrics. Mr. Belfield answered.
 - Tracey White asked about COVID being mandated and how will the district advocate for the children. Mr. Belfield answered.
 - Dr. Race spoke on COVID metrics and getting to the end of this epidemic includes the fact that the vaccine works. - *Doctorate Race shared his opinion that having young children additionally vaccinated will lower covid prevalence. He stated that having a higher vaccination rate overall would do the trick and would be the end point.. (edit received from Trustee Dwyer 12.14.2021)*
 - Holly Schadt asked if parents choose to not vaccinate children will testing be required weekly. Mr. Belfield answered.

- XIII. Proposed Executive Session - Subject to Board Approval
 - A. Enter into the Executive Session for the purpose of discussing current litigation at 7:09 pm.

Motion: Carried **1st:** Trustee Roe-Ryan **2nd:** Trustee Stanton
Vote: Yes: 7 **No:** 0 **Abstain:** 0 **Absent:** 0

B. Reconvene into Open Session at 9:30 pm

Motion: Carried **1st:** Trustee Walker **2nd:** Trustee Gates
Vote: Yes: 7 **No:** 0 **Abstain:** 0 **Absent:** 0

XIV. Adjournment

A. Adjourn the meeting at 9:30 pm

Motion: Carried **1st:** Trustee LeBlanc **2nd:** Trustee Gates
Vote: Yes: 7 **No:** 0 **Abstain:** 0 **Absent:** 0

Respectfully Submitted,
Paula Hibbert