

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 12, 2020

I. Opening

A. Call to Order The regular Board of Education meeting for the LaFayette Central School District was called to order at 5:31pm by President Dow. In attendance were Trustees S. Dow, J. LeBlanc, C. Dwyer, M. Walker, M. Whitney, Carole Dwyer, Superintendent Jeremy Belfield, School Business Manager and Deputy Clerk Cindy Daley.

1. Guests in attendance: Construction team members - Lauren Sloan, Catherine Wolfe, Edward McGraw, Christopher Gray and Eric Goodroe. Also Benjamin Masalone from Fiscal Advisor and David Morgan from the Community.
2. Virtual Guests - Karen Ocque, Dawn Pulverenti, Hayden Thomas, Brandon Steglich, Dawsun Weil, Jennifer Blossey, Anne Courtwright, Simone Gonyea.

B. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Dow at 5:31 pm.

C. Opening Remarks- President Dow welcomed members of the public attending both in person and online.

II. Approval of Minutes - Revisited at 5:57 pm as Trustee Walker arrived at 5:52 pm

A. Regular Minutes - October 22, 2020

**Motion:** Carried      **1st:** R. Reyburn      **2nd:** M. Whitney  
**Vote: Yes:** 4    **No:**0    **Abstain:** C. Dwyer, J. LeBlanc    **Absent:** J. Gates

III. District Presentation

A. Legend of Learning - Jen Gates - Nov. 2020- The board recognized Mrs. Jennifer Gates, Head Nurse for the district and nurse at LaFayette Jr/Sr High School. Jen has been a pivotal part of keeping our students and staff healthy and safe as part of our school reopening during the current health situation facing our community. Congratulations to Mrs. Jennifer Gates, Legend of Learning for November 2020!

- B. Recognition - Donations to ONS - The board recognized and thanked members of the community for recent donations to the Onondaga Nation School. Raylen, a close friend of former 1970's ONS principal Llyod Elm, who had a huge heart for the Nation, organized a golf tournament to raise money for a winter coat drive for students from the Onondaga Nation. Also, the Daughters of the American Revolution organized a winter clothing drive for students on the Onondaga Nation. 135 Coats were dropped off two weekends ago. Audrey Shenandoah, a Big Picture student, organized a clothing closet so there will be lots of supplies to distribute to the Onondaga Nation Students. Mr. Belfield expressed his appreciation.
- C. Public Hearing - Capital Project Referendum- Superintendent Belfield, representatives from Ashley McGraw Architects (Lauren Sloan and Catherine Wolfe), Turner Construction (Chris Gray), and the district's fiscal agent (Benjamin Masalona) presented information relative to the \$8.6M Capital Referendum that will take place at LaFayette Jr/Sr. High School on December 10, 2020 from 1:00-9:00 PM in the main lobby. The project addresses all high priority items listed on the recent building condition survey. It is projected that these improvements will not have any impact on local school property taxes based on available building aid and reserve funds. The district is looking to address infrastructure needs, program enhancements, improve air quality, and add air conditioning to certain portions of the elementary school and high school without any impact on local property taxes. Additional information can be found on the school's website. An informational flyer will be mailed to community members during the month of December and there will be informational meetings as the vote date approaches.
- D. High points of financing the project - we have some retiring debt from previous projects that were completed so there is some available building aid for those projects and thankful Lafayette has a high building aid ratio so the state picks up a large share of our improvements. We also have reserve dollars in capital reserve funds. The Board and the previous boards have been diligent making sure that we save so that we can perform these improvements without any local tax impacts.
- E. Max from Fiscal Advisor walked us through the official information about the capital project. The two projects that are now being retired - one from 2002 and the other from 2007 - as this new project begins the old ones go away. For the building aid - for every dollar that is spent there is 87 cents in return - it is made sure that every item is aid eligible. Interests rates are very low and this project will be financed two years from now. There is enough cushioning built in at this point for protection from higher interest rate however as interest rate goes up so does building aid. The million dollars in reserves will be the first spent. Projects may change and there is always a risk but Max has never had a project that has undergone the review by the architect and submitted to the State and not got approved.

F. Mr. Belfield reviewed the critical scope of the project starting with the high school the auxiliary gym roof, septic tank and water heaters need to be replaced. The loading dock needs to be repaired and the library carpet needs to be replaced. Great focus is placed on air quality and making improvements by installing air conditioning on the second floor, the wellness center, the gym and the music room. The scope included renovation to the Jr. Sr. High auditorium lobby, the STEM, woodwork and robotic classrooms. At Grimshaw the loading dock also needs to be repaired. The septic tank, the gymnasium dividers and asbestos ceiling replacements are needed. The cafeteria floor was refinished and other floors throughout the building will be refinished. The cafeteria, gym and 2nd floor classrooms at Grimshaw were also mentioned for air conditioning installation. Mr. Reyburn asked about door replacements being up to ADA code. Mr. Belfield responded that the doors needing to be replaced were identified and are up to code. Trustee Dwyer asked about air quality in the high school wrestling room. Mr. Belfield responded that it needs to be brought to code however ventilation is suitable for that space.

#### IV. Old Business

- A. Student Safety - The district was able to take advantage of the warmer temperatures last week and this week to accomplish emergency drills. Buildings are required to complete at least one evacuation drill each month per New York State Education Department. As the cooler temperatures approach, students and staff should be prepared for at least one evacuation drill during each month.
  
- B. Online Safety & Security - The district recently upgraded our Google Administrator panel to include enhanced features for monitoring video conferencing (live streaming of classes, etc.). Principals can now see which Google Meetings are occurring and have used this feature along with our web activity service to make sure that computer usage is dedicated to learning activities. This recent upgrade also allows teachers to host breakout sessions in Google Meets so that staff can work in smaller groups with students.

#### V. Communications

- A. Board Member Updates - No Updates

#### VI. New Business - No New Business

## VII. Superintendent Report

- A. The district recently received approval for our Annual Professional Performance Review plan for classroom teachers from the New York State Education Department. The updated plan was required based on a change in the student performance measure for all staff. Given our continued focus on reaching a 100% graduation rate, all staff receive a performance grade based on five major high school exit exams. The updated plan also better reflects local evaluation practices. Superintendent Belfield thanked the LaFayette Teachers' Association, APPR committee, and LaFayette Administrator's Association for their focus on continuous improvement.
- B. Superintendent Belfield attended the Halloween Parade at Grimshaw Elementary this year. Due to the pandemic, one grade level at a time marched through the building while the parade was live streamed to parents and other classes. The parade can be viewed on the district's Facebook page. Superintendent Belfield thanked all of the students who participated in the parade.
- C. Superintendent Belfield congratulated our new members of the National Honor Society. Last Wednesday, the LaFayette Sr. High National Honor Society welcomed ten new members. This is available on Facebook.
- D. Students at the Onondaga Nation School studied the Canandaigua Treaty yesterday. The treaty was signed on November 11, 1794 to form a lasting peace between the United States and the Six Nations of Native Americans in what is now New York State. Thank you to our students and staff members who shared videos of what they have learned from their connections to Native culture.
- E. Superintendent Belfield shared that the LaFayette Jr./Sr. High School and Big Picture School switched to remote learning for Thursday November 12th and Friday November 13th due to a student who tested positive for COVID-19. The student was last in attendance on Monday and did not ride the bus. The district has submitted all requested information to the Onondaga County Health Department so that contact tracing can occur. The schools will return to in person instruction on Monday November 16th once contact tracing is complete. Superintendent Belfield thanked the administrators, school staff, students, parents and community members for their flexibility, patience, and understanding with this change in learning format.
- F. Superintendent Belfield shared that certain schools in other portions of the county have been identified by New York State as a "microcluster" for disease transmission based on a recent spike in positive tests for COVID-19. As part of this designation, schools in "yellow zones" must test 20% of their in person students and staff on a weekly basis. Onondaga County is working with schools in these zones to coordinate testing efforts and gain parental permission for testing. While the district is fortunate to not currently have any schools identified in a microcluster or "yellow" zone, it is possible that as cases increase that we have to be prepared to adapt and adjust. The district is in communication with other school districts and

the county on a regular basis and we are grateful for their ongoing support and willingness to assist with testing efforts.

VIII. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Board Action Items

1. LaFayette Board of Education Policy Review - second reading and Resolution to waive third reading for policy 8260
2. LaFayette Board of Education Policy Review - first reading for policy 5220
3. CSE, CPSE and 504 Recommendations
4. Treasurer's Report - August & September 2020
5. Capital Project Change Orders
6. Budget Transfers - August & September 2020
7. Budget Transfer Request over \$10,000
8. Budget Amendment - CARES Act
9. Donation - Donors Choose
10. Extension to Construction Management Services (TCO)
11. MOA Retirement Incentive LTA
12. Record Retention Schedule Resolution
13. NYSMEC Participation Resolutions
14. Workers for Capital Project Vote
15. Combining Contract - Track & Field - Onondaga Central
16. ONS Calendar Adjustment

B. Approval of Personnel

1. Instructional Retirement
2. Non-Instructional Leave of Absence
3. Non-Instructional Appointment
4. Substitute Appointment

<b>Motion:</b>	Carried	<b>1st:</b> C. Dwyer	<b>2nd:</b> S. Reyburn
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yes:</b> 6 <b>No:</b> 0	<b>Abstain:</b> 0	<b>Absent:</b> J. Gates

Trustee Walker - is the CARES act guaranteed? Mr. Belfield said it was approved by congress and is there to be claimed.

IX. Board Non-Action Items

- A. Strategic Plan Update- Superintendent Belfield updated the board on the recent administration of the BIMAS-2 (Behavioral Intervention Monitoring Assessment System) in grades 7-10. The screening tool is used to help identify students who engage in at risk behavior. Our school counseling staff and mental health team have been able to quickly respond to our most significant needs. The district, Native American Liaisons Shawna Booth and Ed Shenandoah, the Onondaga Nation Council of Chiefs and Clan Mothers, and Gawennhawiis are requesting approval from NYS for the addition of a social worker to help meet the social, emotional, and mental health needs of our Native American students across the district. As part of our strategic plan, we are committed to addressing the SEL needs of our students. We are grateful for our staff, students, and families

for their commitments to developing not only the academic skills needed for success, but the skills for a strong heart and strong mind that will help them to succeed.

X. Financials - FYI

School Business Manager Cindy Daley reported on the financial status of the district. As of 9/30/2020, our revenues are up by about 9% vs. last year at 9/30. Part of this is due to tax collections which are up by 6 ½% over last year. Additionally, expenditures are down by approximately 2% when compared to last year. We are mindful of spending with the uncertainty of state funding. This is a good start to the year, especially if we need to make adjustments as the year goes on.

- A. Warrants and Claims - August & September 2020
- B. Financials - August & September 2020
- C. Cash Flow - August & September 2020

Trustee LeBlanc asked - are parent / teacher conferences virtual? Mr. Belfield - Yes

XI. Calendar Review

A. Upcoming Events

\* Early release for PLCs every Monday - 1:45 GS/ONS; 2:00 HS/BP

1. November 13th - ~~Red Cross Blood Drive - HS 8am - 2pm~~  
(postponed)  
- Soup & Soap Drive ends at Grimshaw
2. November 15th - Jyothowe'gó•nah / Jotowe'go:nah (Return of the Big Cold)
3. November 16th - Early release for PLCs  
- Parent/Teacher Conferences at Grimshaw
4. November 17th - GS Picture Retake Day
5. November 18th - Dollar Dog Day at Grimshaw
6. November 20th-27th - Exhibition Week at Big Picture
7. November 20th - GS - Half Day (Parent Teacher Conferences)
8. November 23rd - Early release for PLCs 7-12; Parent Teacher Conference Grimshaw
9. November 25th - 27th - Thanksgiving Recess (All schools)
10. November 30th - Early release for PLCs
11. December 5th - SAT Exam
12. December 7th - Early release for PLCs
13. December 8th - ONS Picture Retake Day
14. ~~December 9th - GS Winter Concert~~
15. December 10th - BOE Meeting - \$8.6 million Capital Project Vote

XII. Public Comments

A. Public Communications to the Board - No Communications

XIII. Proposed Executive Session - Subject to Board Approval

A. Enter into the Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the medical history of particular individuals at 6:10 PM.

**Motion:** Carried                      **1st:** R. Reyburn                      **2nd:** J. Le Blanc  
**Vote:**                      **Yes:** 6    **No:** 0                      **Abstain:** 0                      **Absent:** J. Gates

B. Reconvene into Open Session at 7:31PM

**Motion:** Carried                      **1st:** R. Reyburn                      **2nd:** C. Dwyer  
**Vote:**                      **Yes:** 6    **No:** 0                      **Abstain:**                      **Absent:** J. Gates

XIV. Adjournment

A. Adjourn the Meeting at 7:31 PM.

**Motion:** Carried                      1st: R. Reyburn                      **2nd:** J. LeBlanc  
**Vote:**                      **Yes:** 6    **No:**                      0                      **Abstain:**                      **Absent:** J.  
Gates

Respectfully Submitted,  
Paula Hibbert