

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
02/11/2021

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, M. Whitney, J. Gates, Superintendent Jeremy Belfield, School Business Manager and Deputy Clerk Cindy Daley and A. Roe-Ryan.

1. Guests in attendance: No Guests in the audience
2. Virtual Guests: Dawn Pulverenti, Leonard Oppendisano, Kim Fabend, Anne Courtwright, Ashley Kolbeck, Danielle, Robinson, Heidi Carr, Katherine Olrich, Kyle Thomas, Diane Pratt, Devin Baker, Jennifer Blosssey, Matthew Dodge, Jason P. Ryan, Thomas Oakes, Simone Gonyea, Trisha Fogarty, Teresa Miller, Denise Dodge, Sue Osborn.

B. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by R.Reyburn at 5:33 pm

C. Opening Remarks - President Reyburn addressed the guests on how to approach the Board.

II. Approval of Minutes

A. Regular Minutes - January 28, 2021

1. Amendments - No Amendments

B. Special Meeting Minutes - February 1, 2021

1. Amendments - No Amendments

III. Resolution

A. Resolution to appoint BOE member to the vacant seat - Amy Roe

Motion: **1st:** J. Gates **2nd:** J. LeBlanc
Vote: Yes: 4 **No:** 0 **Abstain:** 0 **Absent:** M. Walker

Amy Roe was appointed as a Board member. Her oath was administered.

Trustee Dwyer entered at 5:45

IV. District Presentation

- A. Legend of Learning - February 2021- Jerry Kelly- The board recognized Coach Jerry Kelly as the Legend of Learning for February 2021. Superintendent Belfield thanked Mr. Kelly for his contributions to our student athletes both on and off the court. Coach Kelly has taught our students to give back to our community in a number of ways and we are grateful for his service to our school.
- B. 2021 Scholastic Award Winners- The board welcomed Ms. Heidi Carr and Ms. Danielle Robinson, Art teachers at the Jr./Sr High Our amazing student artists were recognized and celebrated for the 2021 Scholastic Art Award . Thirteen LaFayette students received awards. Congratulations to the following students: Gold Key Winners: John Poplawski, Thomas Oakes. Silver Key Winners: Kelly Jocko, Elana Saba, Lillian Andrews, Lindsay Carroll, Luke Peios Honorable Mention Winners: Keely Jocko, Katie Fabend, Madison Homer, Ellie McElhannon, Lily McElhannon, and Ryan Oakes.Heidi Carr addressed the board - It's an honor to be here and celebrate our student artists. The event this year was conducted virtually. There is a local virtual show coming soon - no date as yet. Syracuse.com did an extensive coverage of Scholastic Art winners. Danielle Robinson spoke on the various categories receiving awards. Gold Key winners will advance to the national level. Danielle thanked Mr. Belfield and the Board for their continued support.
- C. Budget Presentation - Administrative and Capital Budget - School Business Manager presented the administrative and capital portions of the draft 2021-2022 budget. Due to the current economic climate, the district is looking to minimize increases to expenses, avoid filling vacant positions when possible, and remain compliant with the tax levy limit. Foremost in mind is to always inspire, empower, and prepare all students for excellence. There have been a couple of meetings and the next meeting will be on March 3rd. Next meeting we will present Program and BOCES. Trustee Dwyer asked about the decrease in Special Ed. Mrs. Daley - Due to trimming and Special Ed. has previously been cushioned due to the unknown. Tonight's presentation covered the following topics and is available [here](#):
1. Executive Budget Proposal
 2. Foundation Aid Vs. Tax Levy increase
 3. Tax Levy Limit Calculation
 4. 2021-22 Key Budget Points
 5. 2021-22 Preliminary Budget
 6. 2021-22 Capital Budget

D. Public hearing - Pandemic Plan- Superintendent Belfield conducted a public hearing on the pandemic plan which will be open for a 30 day comment period. The plan addresses district measures to identify essential staff members, have adequate personal protective equipment, and prepare for shifting to remote work when necessary. The plan is linked to our goals and core values. The process for creating a pandemic plan included our attorneys, BOCES, our school administrators and tonight's hearing. The plan will be back to the Board for consideration on March 25th.

V. Old Business

- A. Student Safety - Superintendent Belfield updated the board on recent water testing conducted in the district. Previously the district tested all drinking water sources in Grimshaw Elementary and the High School. Four water samples were found to have higher levels of lead and were taken out of service. The fixtures have been replaced and retested. The test results show that the new fixtures are functioning within acceptable levels. A copy of the lab results and a letter to families has been posted on the website.
- B. Online Safety & Security - Superintendent Belfield updated the board on the district's ongoing efforts to obtain an updated risk assessment. Several surrounding districts have approached the Central New York Regional Information Center and we are working with vendors available on government contracts to determine a scope of work for risk assessments and obtain updated pricing.

VI. Communications

- A. Board Member Updates - No updates
- B. CNYSBA Board Liaison Report - CNYSBA shared updates for upcoming events. CNYSBA has partnered with Manufacturing Association of Central New York to highlight career opportunities in our region. CNYSBA also hosted a series of legislative forums for school board members to speak with elected officials regarding resource needs and school aid allocations for the coming year. On February 25th at 6:00 PM, CNYSBA will host a Roundtable Series with Dr. Lester Young, the newly elected Board of Regents Chancellor.

VII. New Business - No new business

VIII. Superintendent Report

- A. Superintendent Belfield thanked the board for their support with our plan for a safe return to high risk sports. The district clarified with Onondaga County that all athletes, coaches, and game personnel will be required to participate in weekly testing. Superintendent Belfield thanked Jennifer Gates, Head Nurse, and Athletic Coordinator Jerry Kelly for their efforts to facilitate COVID testing for athletes. Our first round of asymptomatic testing of athletes revealed one positive case and the athletic teams involved have paused activities for ten days.
- B. Superintendent Belfield thanked our school nurses who assisted with our recent asymptomatic COVID testing clinic on Monday February 8th. A total of 163 students and staff were tested with only two positive cases revealed. Superintendent Belfield thanked our students and staff for their participation with surveillance testing and for following public health precautions. Our next round of asymptomatic testing is tentatively scheduled for Monday February 22nd.
- C. The Reopen LaFayette CSD Task Force met on Wednesday February 10th. The task force reviewed the updated quarantine guidelines published by Onondaga County effective February 6th. These new guidelines note that the county has not seen evidence of transmission of SARS-CoV2 in schools in the county. These new guidelines allow for fewer quarantine experiences for students and staff so long as individuals remain six feet apart and wear a face covering at all times. Up until now, we have offered staff members the flexibility of allowing students to either remove their face covering when seated for instruction or require students to wear face coverings based on classroom activities or other factors. Given this new guidance, we have notified families that we will transition to requiring face coverings at all times effective Monday February 22nd.
- D. Superintendent Belfield and School Business Manager participated in the Central New York School Boards Association Legislative Advocacy Session. Dr. Rick Timbs presented a thorough overview of how the Governor's proposal for school aid will have a negative impact on our districts and districts throughout the state. Items of concern with the school aid proposal included the short sighted full use of federal aid dollars to shore up school aid, the lack of adequate funding for foundation aid, the proposal to consolidate categorical aids (transportation, BOCES, etc.), and the local adjustments to funding sources such as STAR.
- E. Virtual Lobby Day- Superintendent Belfield participated in the New York State School Boards Association Virtual Lobby Day. NYSBBA presented a detailed analysis of the school aid proposal. State Senator Shelly Mayer shared her views on the need to fully fund public schools, especially given the challenges faced as a result of the pandemic. Superintendent Belfield will be following up with our state representatives in the coming weeks to advocate for adequate funding.

IX. Policy Discussion

A. First Reading

1. Policy 3150 - School Volunteers
2. Policy 3160 - Charter Schools
3. Policy 3230 - Public Complaints
4. Policy 3271 - Soliciting of Charitable Donations
5. Policy 3272 - Advertising in School
6. Policy 5530 - Petty Cash Funds and Cash in School Buildings

B. Second Reading with a motion to waive the third reading

1. Policy 5220 - District Investments

Motion: **1st:** J. Gates **2nd:** C. Dwyer
Vote: Yes: 6 **No:** 0 **Abstain:** **Absent:** M. Walker

X. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Board Action Items

1. CSE, CPSE and 504 Recommendations
2. 2020-21 Transportation Agreement between LaFayette CSD & Onondaga CSD

B. Approval of Personnel

1. Coach Appointment

Motion: **1st:** J. LeBlanc **2nd:** C. Dwyer
Vote: Yes: 6 **No:** 0 **Abstain:** 0 **Absent:** M. Walker

XI. Board Non-Action Items

- A. Strategic Plan Update- Our principals recently participated in a meeting with the National Center for Educational Research Network at Harvard. We are currently implementing an attendance intervention pairing up students with adult mentors to help encourage school attendance. Our next area of focus for improvement is helping to improve academic outcomes for students earning less than a "B" average in courses. Our team completed an effort/impact analysis and identified three potential strategies for targeting students who are not experiencing success with academics: high-dose tutoring, small group academic mentoring, and messaging strategies with students on academic engagement. We will be refining our approach over the coming weeks and finalizing our intervention plans to help support our students.

XII. Calendar Review

A. Upcoming Events

- Early Dismissal for PLCs every Monday - 1:45 GS/ONS; 2:00 HS/BP
 1. February 12th - Senior Shedding Party 7th & 8th period
 2. February 15th - 19th - Winter Recess (BP/HS/GS)
 3. February 22nd - Early Dismissal
 4. February 25th - BOE Meeting @ the HS Auditorium @ 5:30 pm

XIII. Public Comments

A. Public Communications to the Board -

XIV. Proposed Executive Session - Subject to Board Approval

- A. Enter into the Executive Session for the purpose of discussing things that are private and personal at 6:27 pm.

Motion: **1st:** C. Dwyer **2nd:** J. Gates
Vote: Yes: 6 **No:** 0 **Abstain:** 0 **Absent:** M. Walker

- B. Reconvene into Open Session at 7:35 pm

Motion: **1st:** C. Dwyer **2nd:** J. Gates
Vote: Yes: 6 **No:** 0 **Abstain:** 0 **Absent:** M. Walker

XV. Adjournment

- A. Adjourn the meeting at 7:40 pm

Motion: **1st:** A. Roe-Ryan **2nd:** J. LeBlanc
Vote: Yes: 6 **No:** 0 **Abstain:** 0 **Absent:** M. Walker

Respectfully Submitted,
Paula Hibbert