

**LaFayette Central School District
Board of Education - Regular Meeting
Location: Onondaga Nation School
3285 State Route 11A
Nedrow, New York 13120
March 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 5:37 pm by S. Dow. In attendance were Trustees S. Dow, J. Gates, J. LeBlanc, M. Walker, R. Reyburn and C. Dwyer, Superintendent Jeremy Belfield, School Business Manager Cindy Daley, District Clerk Paula Hibbert. Administrators: Jason Ryan, Susan Osborn, Jennifer Blossey, and Simone Gonyea. Also present, Mary Darrow, Debbie Cook, Curtis Waterman, Angela Ferguson, Trudy Shenandoah, Verna Jones, Sue Parsons, John Gonyea, Michah Thornton, Margaret Gerbsch, Katie Downs, Alison Keough, Nancy Powless, Denise Waterman, Brad Powless and Joanne Powless.
- B. Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Dow at 5:37 PM.
- C. Opening Remarks - President Dow welcomed the audience. Superintendent Belfield thanked the Onondaga Nation School for hosting the meeting. He congratulated Simone Gonyea on her new appointment as Principal of ONS. John Gizzi was thanked for mentoring Simone and his service to the Onondaga Nation School and community. Superintendent Belfield also thanked administrative intern Trisha Fogarty for her support of the students and staff at ONS.

II. Approval of Minutes

- A. Regular Minutes - February 27, 2020

Motion: 1st: R. Reyburn 2nd: M. Walker

Vote: Yes: 4 No: 0 **Abstain:** J. Gates, C. Dwyer **Absent:** M. Whitney (in at 6:22 pm)

III. District Presentations

- A. Legend of Learning March 2020 - Superintendent Belfield congratulated Mary Darrow, Bus Driver for LaFayette Transportation Department, as the Legend of Learning for March 2020. Mary was nominated for her exceptional service, diligently transporting students daily and also daily being a great transportation team player.
- B. Mid-Year Report for Grimshaw, ONS, HS, and BP - Administrators from each of the schools highlighted updates on improvement efforts from the School Comprehensive Education Plans. At Grimshaw there are approximately 130 perfect attendance awards given each month. Currently there are 30 students with perfect attendance for the year. Using Fountas and Pinnell Running Records, Grimshaw is on track for having 75% of students reading at or above the End of the Year Independent level for their grade level. Mr. McKarthy, 6th Grade teacher, led the "Breaking Barriers in History Projects" which included individuals and groups throughout history. Currently, The Onondaga Nation School has 62% of students reading at or above grade level, 37% of students are at or above grade level in Math. ONS received positive responses from the community in regards to students and their progress. Attendance improvement continues in the works - 32% of students chronically absent. In 2020 the Jr. Sr. High School will achieve an ELA academic achievement index of 83.5, Mathematics academic achievement index of 77.1. The Mid-Year Benchmark of implementing building purposeful relationship and student/family recognition opportunities was achieved. Postcards are being sent home acknowledging students' good behavior.
- C. Budget Presentation - School Business Manager Cindy Daley presented information on the 2020-2021 Revenue Budget, Capital Outlay Project, and Vehicle Propositions. This year's budget vote will also include two propositions for the voters to consider regarding the creation of

a capital reserve and vehicle replacement reserve. These additional reserves would provide additional funding sources to offset local costs for capital projects and vehicle replacements. The district is also proposing a capital outlay project to continue flooring updates at the high school. This \$100,000 capital outlay project is fully funded through state building aid and will have no local tax impact. Members of the audience inquired on the status of building projects at the Onondaga Nation School and funding sources for the Onondaga Nation School Budget.

Trustee Whitney arrived at 6:22 PM

IV. Old Business

- A. Student Safety- Superintendent Belfield updated the board on efforts to address concerns relative to the spread of the COVID 19 coronavirus. The district has communicated with parents, staff, and students regarding the importance of handwashing. District cleaning staff are making sure that high contact surfaces are sanitized on a nightly basis (ex: desktops, handrails, light switches). Each bus driver has a set of disinfecting wipes to wipe down high contact surfaces. The district is also in the process of purchasing additional hand sanitizer stations for hallways and lunch rooms. Our district medical director has authorized the use of alcohol based hand sanitizer. We will also communicate with parents that they have the right to opt their child out from using alcohol based hand sanitizers. Our nurses and district medical director received training yesterday on proper screening protocols for sick students and how to properly isolate students who are sick to prevent the spread of illness. Staff members are preparing for online instruction or preparing instructional materials to mail home to students in the event of a mandated school closure to prevent the spread of the virus. The district will follow state guidelines of shutting down. Sean Zehner and other staff members have offered to provide professional development to staff on how to post instructional materials to Google Classroom and create YouTube videos. The district has conducted a survey with students regarding internet and device access. Out of 488 students surveyed, 90% have access to the internet and devices available for use in their home. The district is working with the school library system and investigating the cost of partnering with cell phone carriers to obtain additional hot spots for students who do not have access to the internet at home. We have also encouraged staff members to stay home when they are sick and we are reaching out to our 22 employees who are not signed up for direct deposit. Our business office is prepared to continue operations in the event of an extended school closure. The district will continue to be proactive in the continuity of students' education.
- B. Online Safety & Security- Superintendent Belfield updated the board on online safety and security instruction for students. On the district technology webpage, the public can view the [LaFayette/International Society for Technology Education Standards](#). Standard 2 addresses digital literacy concerns and teaching students to be safe online by not sharing personal information and keeping this information private, understanding the role of their online identity, and encouraging safe, legal and ethical behavior. The district encourages staff to use resources available through [NetSmartz](#).

V. Communications

- A. Board Member Updates

VI. New Business

VII. Superintendent's Report

- A. Superintendent Belfield updated the board on Dr. Seuss Week at Grimshaw. Grimshaw welcomed several guest readers. Superintendent Belfield read *The Cat in the Hat* to Ms.

Pulverenti’s kindergarten class. Superintendent Belfield thanked all of our guest readers for helping to celebrate the importance of reading.

- B. On Wednesday March 4th, the district hosted our second Parent, Student, Staff Advisory Council meeting. The group refined the mission and purpose statements for the group and discussed our next meeting topic: Technology Resources for Parents. We are in the process of planning an informational session for parents on topics such as: 1) How to Use Google Classroom 2) Parent Portal through Schoology, and other web-based learning resources. Given the concerns regarding the spread of illness, we may consider postponing the event until later this Spring or in the Fall or holding the event virtually online.
- C. Superintendent Belfield had the opportunity to present the district’s tenure attainment rubric to administrative interns at LeMoyne University. The seminar focused on the importance of setting standards for probationary staff and procedures for retaining only the best staff to work with our students. Tenure presentation will be in May.
- D. Superintendent Belfield attended the Friday night performance of “Annie” on March 6th. The performers, stage crew, pit band, and directors did an outstanding job. Congratulations to all on a great performance!
- E. Superintendent Belfield updated the board on the recent professional development day held on Wednesday March 11th. The morning session featured a panel discussion on how intergenerational trauma has impacted and continues to impact Native American communities. Panel members featured Clan Mother Freida Jacques, Dr. Darryl Tonnemah, and author/storyteller Tom Porter. Thank you to our panel and to our staff for participating in this powerful learning experience.

VIII. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Board Action Items

- 1. LaFayette Board of Education Policy Review - second reading for policy #5756 and motion to waive third reading.
- 2. Title Change MOU
- 3. CSE, CPSE, and 504 Recommendations
- 4. Surplus Equipment
- 5. SEQRA Resolution - Capital Outlay Project 2020
- 6. Approval of Vehicle Proposition and Reserve Propositions for May 19, 2020 vote.
- 7. Bid Award for Security Project 2019

B. Approval of Personnel Items

- 1. Substitute Appointments
- 2. Administrative Appointment
- 3. Instructional Appointment

Motion: 1st: C. Dwyer 2nd: J. LeBlanc

Vote: Yes: 7 No: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 0

IX. Board Non-Action Items

- A. Strategic Plan Update - Superintendent Belfield shared that our District Comprehensive Improvement Plan team met on Wednesday March 4th to review mid-year STAR reading and math data and attendance data. The team discussed messaging strategies to help parents understand what the scores mean and how parents can help support their child’s learning. The team also discussed the upcoming New York State exams for ELA and Math for students in grades 3-8. The district will continue to encourage students to take the exams and try their best. We will also encourage families to help their children by encouraging good sleep habits during

testing periods. The team was interested in emphasizing the importance of showing academic growth and encouraging test participation. In order to make sure that we are meeting the academic needs of all students, the district will continue to offer a local exam for students who refuse to participate in state testing. Last year, the district saw a large increase in test participation and we appreciate the support of our students and parents in meeting the 95% participation rate requirement set by the state and federal accountability system for schools. Also the district is in the process of collecting data on parent contact/communication. So far, we have received 175 responses on two survey questions focused on positive parent engagement. Our results indicate a significant improvement in positive responses. The district will continue to review efforts to engage in a positive manner with parents and students.

X. Calendar

A. Upcoming Events

1. Every Monday - early dismissal for PLCs (1:45 GS/ONS, 2:00 HS/BP)
2. Friday March 13, 2020 Senior Basketball Game from 5:00-8:00 PM; End of 25 weeks ONS
3. Monday March 16, 2020 - National Honor Society Blood Drive in Small Gym
4. ~~Wednesday March 18, 2020 - ELA Committee Meeting 3:30 PM; ONS Family Night 5:00 PM~~
5. ~~Friday March 20, 2020: Teen Institute Movie Night: The Lorax; Report Cards for GS~~
6. ~~Thursday March 26, 2020: Board Meeting 5:30 PM Big Picture Commons~~
7. ~~Friday March 27, 2020: Rockfest 6:00-10:00 PM * Cancelled due to declaration of a local emergency by County Executive Ryan McMahon~~

XI. Closing Remarks

- A. Public Communications to the Board - S. Gonyea -Darryl will return on Friday at 5:00 pm. Everyone is invited to hear Darryl share his wisdom.

XII. Proposed Executive Session

- A. Enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the employment history of particular individuals at 7:22 pm.

Motion: 1st: S. Reyburn 2nd: J. Gates

Vote: Yes: 7 No: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 0

- B. Reconvene into Open Session at 9:09 pm.

Motion: 1st: S. Reyburn 2nd: J. Gates

Vote: Yes: 7 No: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 0

XIII. Adjournment

- A. Adjourn the Meeting at 9:10 pm.

Motion: 1st: S. Reyburn 2nd: C. Dwyer

Vote: Yes: 7 No: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 0

Respectfully Submitted,
Paula Hibbert