

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
March 30, 2022

I. Opening

A. Call to Order - the regular Board of Education meeting for the Lafayette Central School district was called to order at 5:30 pm by President Reyburn. In attendance were Trustee J. LeBlanc, C. Dwyer, M. Walker, S. Stanton, J. Gates, Amy Roe-Ryan, Superintendent Jeremy Belfield, Interim School Business Manager and Deputy Clerk Peter Mahunik.

1. Guests in attendance - Tiana Poplawski, Rylee Casler, Rayna Casler, Kari Walker, Harlie Walker, Tom, Nancy and Carolyn Redmore, Dawn Pulverenti, Sarah Wells, Clara Perry, Teagan Vossler, Logan Hazeltine, Serenity Jackson, Jana Silvestro, Jen and John Vossler, Jennifer Post, Suzanne Doolittle, Sarah Munnell, Devon Munnell, Scott Heath, Teresa Olin, Patrick Olin
2. Virtual Guests - Ashley Kolbeck, Lisa Morgan, Karen Ocque, Katherine Olrich, Kayleigh Olrich, Sue Osborn, Jason Ryan.

B. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Reyburn at 5:30 pm.

C. Opening Remarks - President Reyburn welcomed and instructed the audience on how to address the Board.

II. Approval of Minutes -

A. Regular Minutes - March 16, 2022 - Amended

IV. Communications

BOCES plan is to save \$2.4 million on utilities using ~~a solar atomic wind~~ solar and wind and other conventional methods.

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

III. District Presentation

A. Musical "Freaky Friday" Participants Recognized for their Accomplishments - Superintendent Belfield introduced Tiana Poplawski, advisor for the Spring musical, who provided the board with an update on the Jr/Sr High Musical featured earlier this month by the LaFayette Performers. The board recognized members of the cast, stage crew, pit band, and lights/sound crew with certificates of recognition.

- B. [ELA and EL High School Presentation](#) - Superintendent Belfield introduced Lisa Morgan Phelan and one of her students, Kayleigh Olrich. Ms. Phelan talked about the objectives and about exactly what a multimedia essay is. Kayleigh virtually presented a multimedia essay project from 11th grade English, featuring General Douglas MacArthur. Mr. Belfield commended Kayleigh. Ms. Phelan thanked the Board for having her and Kayleigh at the meeting.
- C. [Budget Adoption](#) [Property Tax Report Card](#)
Peter Mahunik presented the 22-23 proposed budget. Areas covered in the presentation were Budget Goals, Key Budget Points, Preliminary Expenditure Summary, Proposed Revenue Budget and Tax Levy Limit Calculations. The budget building season started back in December. Part of building the budget depends on BOCES for their budget. The Governor and the Legislature are working on their budgets. The goal is to create a physically responsible budget, include all obligations and implement all improvement plans. Mr. Mahunik's presentation shows projections. He stated there are always more needs than money. All positions are analyzed; if there is a more inexpensive way, get it done that way. The budget is built to preserve all programs and to have enough opportunities for the kids. ARP is a big part of the budget. Federal funds end at some point in the coming years and when it does with a good fiscal plan current opportunities for kids will continue. Compliance with our tax cap; the pilot program has an impact on our tax cap. The tax cap went from 2.36% to 2.01%. Mr. Mahunik continued with how to maximize all revenue sources by coding correctly. A change to the program budget is the addition of a Social Worker to the elementary school, an ELL Teacher to the high school and increasing a music position from a .5 to a .6 position. Preliminary Expenditures were presented by the breakdown of categories.

Trustee Dwyer questioned if the 10.4% (change in the preliminary capital budget) is due to what's being worked on right now?

Mr. Mahunik answered that it's due to the BAN expiring to a bond.

Trustee Dwyer asked about locking in at a lower rate.

Mr. Mahunik answered that it's timing and there is really no trick to it and when the rates go up the State aid also increases. The State aid on debts depends on the amount of money borrowed and the average interest rate at the time of borrowing.

Mr. Mahunik continued his presentation with the 2022-2023 Capital Outlay, Vehicle Proposition, Proposed Program and Benefit Budget.

Trustee Walker asked about tracking health programs' costs within the district compared to private workforces and if this can be done.

Mr. Belfield responded with the wellness programs and tele-a-health to improve access to care that helped on the mental health side. In terms of the wellness program the cost can have an adverse effect on the rates. Mr. Belfield mentioned the Employees' Assistant Program (EAP) and employees' utilization of this program over the last year.

Mr. Mahunik added that the consortium looks at the benefit for everyone that makes economic sense. He continued his presentation with the 3-Part Budget - Administrative, Capital and Program followed by the 2022-2023 Proposed Revenue Budget and Tax Levy Limit Calculation.

Trustee Dwyer questioned the contingency budget and taking money out of the capital reserve.

Mr. Mahunik answered that there are a lot of things that can be done. Mr. Mahunik answered Trustee Dwyer's question during the presentation portion "What if the Proposed Budget is Defeated" which included facts on a contingent budget.

Trustee Roe-Ryan questioned whether the 20-21 budget reserves will decrease this year or is it pretty much solid.

Mr. Mahunik answered that we budget but if not utilized it will not be touched.

Mr. Belfield stated that only once the reserves had to be utilized. This was at the beginning of the pandemic due to transportation not being utilized.

Trustee LeBlanc asked Mr. Belfield about the ELL Teacher and whether there are enough kids.

Mr. Belfield responded that the need will be met for the rest of the year. Trying to recruit and find a part-time person is more challenging than finding a full-time person. The ELL Teacher at the high school would also service a student at Grimshaw. One of the benefits of a TESOL certification is the teacher would also have a degree in literacy and help with AIS services and a candidate with a Special Education certification can serve part-time in literacy and part-time in special education.

Trustee LeBlanc asked about the increase in the Music position.

Mr. Belfield responded that it would be an extra half day per week; Breaking up the large lesson groups into smaller groups and giving kids more small group instrumental instructions.

1. [Roll Call for Budget Adoption](#)

Section 7. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

The motion having been duly moved, the resolution was acted upon by the Board of Education and there were 7 votes in favor of the resolution and 0 votes against the resolution as follows:

Ronald Shawn Reyburn, President	Voting	<u>YES</u>
Carole Dwyer, Vice President	Voting	<u>YES</u>
Jody Gates	Voting	<u>YES</u>
Janine LeBlanc	Voting	<u>YES</u>
Amy Roe-Ryan	Voting	<u>YES</u>
Sarah Stanton	Voting	<u>YES</u>
Matthew Walker	Voting	<u>YES</u>

The resolution was declared adopted.

IV. Communications

A. Board Member Updates -

1. [Newly Elected Board Members Training - CNYSBA](#)

Trustee LeBlanc spoke on the Jazz Band and Choral group visiting St. Joseph's church last weekend and that it was very much appreciated by everyone.

President Reyburn spoke on the CTE instructors reimbursement through Albany. There was a lot of talk about non-public schools having to choose one of six pathways, which are pretty standard or being reviewed annually by their component school if a pathway is not chosen. This is to ensure everyone gets what they need to be successful. The pathways were not shared.

Mr. Belfield stated that for the non-public schools there is an outside entity that validates the quality of the program that the children are receiving. A law has been on the books that if you have a non-public school within our school district the BOE would be responsible for supervising the substantial equivalency of the education the children are receiving. It has actually been a law on the books since the 1930s; it's just never been widely enforced. It's all just making sure kids are complying with compulsory attendance laws.

President Reyburn and Mr. Belfield spoke on free and reduced lunch for next fall and about an advocacy letter that went out by the Superintendents. The letter is currently being drafted; and hope to have it approved next month.

V. Superintendent Report

- A. District Planning Committee- Superintendent Belfield updated the board on the development of the district calendar. A draft of the calendar was shared with the board. Earlier in the fall, Onondaga Nation leaders proposed the possibility of following the calendar of the other schools in the district. The proposal from Onondaga Nation leaders indicated that students would be allowed to attend ceremonies with their families and ONS would be in session during the 11 ceremony days that have not been traditionally scheduled as days of session for ONS. The idea for the Nation leaders is to encourage families to attend ceremonies together to make it more of a family event. Onondaga Nation leaders will meet soon to make a final decision regarding the school calendar for ONS. Superintendent Belfield anticipates having a 2022-2023 school calendar for consideration at the next board meeting on April 18th and return with a revised calendar for either all the schools or a separate Nation School calendar. Sadly there was an unexpected passing in the community; Bernadette Johnson, a former staff member at the Onondaga Nation School for a number of years.
- B. Give Back of Unused Emergency Closing Days - Superintendent Belfield updated the board on the status of the 2021-2022 school calendar. Given the mild winter, the district has only used two snow days this school year. If this mild weather continues, Superintendent Belfield recommended providing students, families, and staff with an extended Memorial Day weekend and closing school on Thursday May 26 and Friday May 27. School will also be off for the scheduled Memorial Day holiday on Monday May 30, 2022. The revision will be before the board on April 18th.
- C. Superintendent Belfield updated the board on the grades 3-8 New York State English Language Arts exam administered on Tuesday and Wednesday. Test participation was strong at all of our schools: 85% at ONS, 98.7% at GS, 97.9% at the Jr High School and 100% at Big Picture. This year will serve as a new baseline for our schools based on the interruptions to learning that have occurred over the past two years. Superintendent Belfield thanked students and staff members for all of their efforts to prepare for and take the state assessments. We look forward to reviewing the results of the exams and the academic growth over the coming years.
- D. STEAM School Admissions Committee- Superintendent Belfield updated the board on the work of the Syracuse STEAM School Admissions committee. This regional high school will have programs available for entertainment engineering, construction management, data analytics, media technology, robotics/automation, performing arts, visual arts, and business. The committee reviewed the application process for students, which will be open to all students and provide an opportunity for students to demonstrate their interest in available programs. 60% of the seats will go to the kids in the city and 40% to schools in the surrounding areas. Superintendent Belfield thanked Dr. Manning and Dr. Jaime Alicea for sending an opportunity for LaFayette to be involved in the process.

- E. COVID Update - Superintendent Belfield updated the board on recent COVID cases. The district has reported a total of 360 total cases for this school year, which is six new cases since our last board meeting on March 16th. Case reports have significantly declined among our students and staff; however, cases in the surrounding communities are on the increase. The Onondaga Nation School is still taking additional precautions. The district continues to meet with Nation leaders and the Onondaga Nation Health Clinic on a weekly basis to review case counts and protective measures.
- F. Utica National School Safety Award- Superintendent Belfield shared that LaFayette CSD was awarded the 2022 School Safety Excellence Award at the Titanium with Honors level. This award recognizes districts' safety efforts as we work to keep students, staff, and visitors safe. Superintendent Belfield thanked Ms. Paula Hibbert for putting together all of the supporting documents and information for the safety award.
- G. Update to Main Website Page - Superintendent Belfield updated the board on the efforts of our district webmaster, Paula Hibbert, to provide a fresh look and easier navigation for our district webpage. The webpage was last updated in 2018 and based on feedback from parents and community the website can be challenging to navigate. Ms. Hibbert is working with representatives from CNYRIC to provide an updated layout that will be easier to navigate and find necessary information.

VI. Policy Discussion

A. LaFayette Board of Education Policy Review

- 1. Second Reading with a motion to waive the third reading for Policy 3220

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

- 2. First Reading for Policies 1110, 1120, 1210, 1220, 1230, 1310

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

VII. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Board Action Items

- 1. CSE, CPSE and 504 Recommendations
- 2. Treasurer's Report - February 2022
- 3. Budget Transfers - February 2022
- 4. Salary increase for graduate hours for teachers
- 5. Board Meeting Dates 2022-2023
- 6. Administrative Disclosure
- 7. ADA-PEP
- 8. Surplus Items

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

- B. Approval of Personnel Items
 - 1. Leave of Absence
 - 2. Substitute Appointment
 - 3. Spring Coach Appointments

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

VIII. Board Non-Action Items

- A. Strategic Plan Update- Superintendent Belfield updated the board on the recent staff development day that took place on Monday March 21, 2022. Staff members had a wide array of choices that focused on topics such as educating students with ADHD, addressing student mental health, certification in CPR, certification in Therapeutic Crisis Intervention, providing feedback to students, and many other topics. The professional learning committee met yesterday to review feedback from the staff on the sessions offer. Feedback was largely positive with the only common critique being that there was not enough time for staff members to get to all of the sessions that piqued their interest. These topics will be offered again during the summer months and during future staff development sessions. Beth Gwenski is our certified in-house Therapeutic Crisis intervention trainer; Carl Semann and Cheryl Polinsky did CPR. There will be an APPR planning meeting tomorrow morning and April 20th will be an open invitation for staff to reinvigorate our APPR process. Superintendent Belfield thanked the Board for their support.

Mr. Reyburn asked about the agenda for staff development day.

Mr. Belfield responded that it was an eight page agenda with numerous topics.

IX. Financials - FYI

- A. Warrants and Claims - February 2022
- B. Financials - February 2022
- C. Cash Flow - February 2022

Mr. Mahunik shared a couple more things on financials. Financials are back on schedule. There will be some transitions in the business office with Sarah Munnell, in Accounts Payable, retiring and Kim Reppi's position changing a bit. Stephanie Benner started the transition into Accounts Payable. Sarah recently made some impressive changes in the accounts payable process to increase efficiency and accuracy; what a great way to leave. The position of Claims Auditor, being vacated by Kim Reppi, opens the possibility of Sarah returning.

X. Calendar Review

A. Upcoming Events

- Early Dismissal for PLCs every Monday - 1:45 GS/ONS; 2:00 HS/BP
 1. March 29 - April 5 - NYS ELA Testing Grades 3-8
 2. April 6th - OCC Advantage Field Trip 8:45 am - 12:15 pm (All 10th Graders)
 3. April 6th - National Honor Society Induction, Grades 7 & 8 (7-8 pm)
 4. April 8th - ONS Spring Dinner
 5. April 11th - 15th Spring Recess - NO SCHOOL (All Students)
 6. April 18th - BOE Meeting at Big Picture Commons 5:30 pm

XI. Public Comments

A. Public Communications to the Board - No Public Communications

XII. Proposed Executive Session - Subject to Board Approval

A. Enter into the Executive Session for the purpose of discussing legal issues, personnel and student matters at 7:17 pm.

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

B. Reconvene into Open Session at 8:46 pm

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

XIII. Adjournment

A. Adjourn the meeting at 8:46 pm

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Paula Hibbert