

LaFayette Central School District
Board of Education - Regular Meeting
Location: LaFayette Big Picture School, Big Picture Commons
3122 US Route 11 North
LaFayette, New York 13084
May 14, 2020

I. Opening

- A. Call to Order The regular Board of Education meeting for the LaFayette Central School District was called to order at 5:32 pm by Stephanie Dow. In attendance were Trustees J. Gates, J. LeBlanc, M. Walker, R. Reyburn, C. Dwyer (participating via video conference), and M. Whitney, Superintendent Jeremy Belfield, School Business Manager Cindy Daley, District Clerk Paula Hibbert, Clerk of the Works Jim Kesler, Construction Manager Tom Carter, Jason Ryan, Jennifer Blossey, Dawn Pulverenti, Colleen Cameron, Trisha Fogarty, Ashley Kolbeck, Toria Anderson, Crystal Morel, Meagan Jean, Karen Ocque, Michele McIntyre.
- B. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Stephanie Dow at 5:32 PM.
- C. Opening Remarks - President Dow greeted members of the audience watching from home.

II. Approval of Minutes

- A. Regular Minutes - April 20, 2019

Motion: Carried 1st: M. Walker 2nd: J. Gates

Vote: Yes: 6 No: 0 Abstain: C. Dwyer Absent: C. Dwyer - Joined at 5:47 pm

III. District Presentations

- A. Legend of Learning - May 2020- Superintendent Belfield congratulated Ms. Meagan Jean, 2nd grade teacher at Grimshaw Elementary, as the Virtual Legend of Learning for May 2020. Several individuals nominated Ms. Jean for going above and beyond during this challenging time to connect with students, families, and continue meaningful learning. Congratulations to Ms. Jean!
- B. Construction Update- Tom Carter from Turner Construction updated the board on the closeout of the \$5.4 million dollar voter approved capital project. Prime contractors are completing punch list items and close out paperwork. Mr. Carter also shared that work has begun on the \$3.1M Security Themed Capital Project. Electrical contractors are installing conduit for the new campus notification system and security cameras. The general contractor and plumbing contractor are beginning on site work. Mr. Kesler updated the board on his coordination efforts for the various capital projects. Mr. Kesler shared that he has been in touch with the New York State Education Department and Office of General Services regarding the planned roof replacement (summer 2020), fire alarm system upgrades (2020-2021 school year), and installation of new doors and security cameras (spring 2021-summer 2021). Mr Kesler gave an update on Grimshaw and High School Scoreboard. He also gave an update on the bid for the Onondaga Nation School roof project. Lastly an update on health and safety and lead testing was also given by Mr. Kesler. Trustee Dwyer inquired how COVID cleaning protocols were incorporated and Mr. Carter explained that each contractor has their own set of procedures and no temperature testing is being done at this time. Some standard cleaning products have been supplied to the work groups.
- C. Budget Vote and Board of Election Update - Mr. Belfield thanked Cindy, Emily and Paula for their tremendous work on the Budget hearing which will be a feature at our next board meeting on Thursday, May 28, 2020. Our budget information can be found on the website under Quick

links. The Budget Vote and Board of Election will all be done by absentee ballots. Per guidance from NYSED one ballot goes to each household. Households needing more ballots will contact the District Office and make the request. Mr. Belfield gave highlights of the Budget - Maintaining small class sizes and maintaining many college classes at the high school level. Mr. Belfield spoke on the tax increase which is compliant with the tax cap rule. LaFayette has one of the lowest school tax rates in Onondaga County and one of the highest graduation rates. A cautious approach is being taken to fill vacant positions due to potential changes to New York school aid.

- D. Honoring the Class of 2020 - Superintendent Belfield updated the board on graduation options to honor the class of 2020. A video was shown to honor the senior class. The district participated in a conference call with other area schools and Onondaga County Executive Ryan McMahan. So long as Central New York continues to meet benchmarks established by New York State for reopening, the district should be allowed to hold an outdoor graduation. The Onondaga County Health Department would have to approve any plans for a large group gathering. The plans would have to accommodate social distancing restrictions. The district is also preparing backup options in case state or local authorities do not authorize a large group gathering. Principals at each school building will communicate dates, times, and details for graduation ceremonies and moving up ceremonies to families once the plans are finalized and approved by the health department. There is a potential graduation date of June 18th for the Jr. High and Big Picture Schools. Trustee Whitney suggested encouraging participants to get tested for COVID-19. Trustee Reyburn suggested contacting Mr. Knapp if we felt the need for disinfecting a large outside area.

IV. Old Business

- A. Student Safety- Superintendent Belfield updated the board on revisions to the district safety plan for 2020-2021. Evan Todd, Safety and Risk Officer from OCM BOCES, worked with Jim Kesler to update our emergency response plan. The next step is for our district health and safety committee to review the plan and provide input. There will be a public hearing at the July 2nd reorganizational meeting on the emergency response plan.
- B. Online Safety & Security - Mr. Belfield updated the board on district efforts to improve security training for staff. Mr. Zehner has been working with representatives from CNYRIC to schedule a demonstration with InfoSeq, a company which provides training resources for staff. Training modules provide a general overview of relevant state and federal laws regarding information security and highlights best practices. The software also has the ability to test staff through email phishing to make sure that staff are using caution when clicking on links in email.

V. Communications

- A. Board Member Updates

VI. New Business

VII. Superintendent's Report

- A. Superintendent Belfield updated the board on the recent announcement made by Governor Andrew Cuomo on Friday May 1st that schools would remain closed through the remainder of the academic school year. Schools must continue learning opportunities for students, provide meals, and serve as a resource for childcare needs for first responders during this extended school closure. All LaFayette children under the age of 18 can eat for free during the school closure. LaFayette staff members, students, and families have gone above and beyond during this challenging time to stay connected through distance learning. Thank you to our school community for showing Lancer Pride during this difficult time.

- B. Superintendent Belfield updated the board on potential changes to the academic calendar. In light of the recent executive order, the district will need to make changes to the school calendar since staff members were required to work during Spring break. The LaFayette Teachers' Contract limits the work calendar year to 187 days. The district is working with state officials and our school attorney to clarify the end date for the academic year. Tentatively, the district is looking for the last day for teachers to be June 19th. Once the district receives additional guidance, Superintendent Belfield will ask for the board to adopt a revised school calendar at a future board meeting.
- C. Superintendent Belfield updated the board on recent advocacy efforts at the federal level to encourage the federal government to provide relief to school districts and other municipalities impacted by the pandemic. Superintendent Belfield called and emailed Congressman Katko, and Senators Gillibrand and Schumer. Governor Cuomo has signaled that NYS schools could see a reduction in school aid by up to 20% if the federal government does not provide a sufficient relief package. A 20% aid reduction to LaFayette would mean that the district would have to reduce expenses, potentially making cuts to programs and staff, and use reserve funds. Superintendent Belfield is hopeful that our elected officials will continue to support and honor the great work of LaFayette students and staff during this challenging time.
- D. Superintendent Belfield updated the board on efforts by the administrative to review guidance documents from federal and state officials for reopening schools and businesses during the current COVID-19 pandemic. Superintendent Belfield will be reaching out to staff, families, and students to form a reopening task force.

VIII. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Board Action Items
 - 1. Approval of Change Orders for 2017 Capital Project (under \$20,000)
 - 2. Approval of Change Orders for 2017 Capital Project (over \$20,000)
 - 3. CSE, CPSE, and 504 Recommendations
 - 4. Instructional Resignation
 - 5. Property Tax Report Card
- B. Personnel
 - 1. Instructional Resignations

Motion: 1st:R. Reyburn 2nd:J. Gates
Vote: Yes:7 No:0 Abstain: Absent:

IX. Board Non-Action Items

- A. Strategic Plan Update- Superintendent Belfield shared that the district professional development committee met to sketch out professional learning for the summer of 2020. Professional development will be aligned to school and district improvement efforts. Our school principals will be participating in a webinar next week with the New York State Education Department regarding our school comprehensive education plans and the district comprehensive improvement plan. Our DCIP committee will meet on May 27th to review and provide recommended changes to our strategic plan.

X. Calendar

- A. Upcoming Events
 - 1. All schools are closed for the remainder of the school year due to the current spread of the coronavirus.
 - 2. Friday May 15, 2020 - Virtual Art Show

3. Thursday May 28, 2020 5:30 PM Budget Hearing and Board of Education Meeting - Big Picture
4. Tuesday June 9, 2020 5:30 PM Budget Vote, Board of Education Election, and Board Meeting - Big Picture

XI. Public Comments

- A. Public Communications to the Board - Colleen Cameron addressed the Board with a question: What are the reopening scenarios that are being considered? Superintendent Belfield explained that we are in the beginning stages of addressing this. We are discussing social distancing within hallways, class sizes, lunch schedules, etc. within the office and what is needed. Who dictates the closing of school should the pandemic still be in the area? We will be working with the health department and officials as directed. What decisions are up to the district regarding COVID operations and procedures? Not many. We will have to provide plans to the state. How are school nurses and psychologists involved in COVID planning for the district? They are very involved, especially in terms of mental health issues for both staff and students.

XII. Proposed Executive Session

- A. Enter into the Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the employment history of particular individuals at 6:44 PM.

Motion: 1st: R. Reyburn 2nd: J. Gates
Vote: Yes:7 No: 0 Abstain: Absent:

- B. Reconvene into Open Session at 8:54 pm.

Motion: 1st: R. Reyburn 2nd: J. Gates
Vote: Yes: 7 No: 0 Abstain: Absent:

XIII. Adjournment

- A. Adjourn the Meeting at 8:45 pm.

Motion: 1st: R. Reyburn 2nd: J. LeBlanc
Vote: Yes: 7 No: 0 Abstain: Absent:

Respectfully Submitted,
Paula Hibbert