

**LaFayette Central School District  
Board of Education - Regular Meeting**

**Location: The Big Picture Commons  
3122 US Route 11 North**

**LaFayette, New York 13084**

**April 20, 2020**

I. Opening

- A. Call to Order The regular Board of Education meeting for the LaFayette Central School District was called to order at 5:34 pm by President Dow. In attendance were Trustees J. Gates, J. LeBlanc, M. Walker, R. Reyburn, and M. Whitney, Superintendent Jeremy Belfield, School Business Manager Cindy Daley, District Clerk Paula Hibbert, and Claims Auditor Kim Reppi. The following members of the audience participated via video conferencing: Simone Gonyea, Principal at the Onondaga Nation School; Trisha Fogarty, Administrative Intern at the Onondaga Nation School; and Anne Courtwright.
- B. Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Dow at 5:34 PM.
- C. Opening Remarks President Dow greeted members of the audience watching from home.

II. Approval of Minutes

- A. Regular Minutes - March 26, 2020

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

III. District Presentations

- A. BOCES Annual meeting and report- Superintendent Belfield shared that tonight the board of education is voting on the OCM BOCES Administrative and Capital budget and electing BOCES board representatives from the component districts. The OCM administrative team limited increases to the administrative portion of the budget which includes the cost of BOCES administrators and the cost of any post employment benefits for OCM employees. Additionally, voters recently approved the purchase of the Crown Road property which resulted in a cost savings to taxpayers in the LaFayette Central School District. Overall, the net reduction of the BOCES administrative and capital budget to LaFayette for next year is \$2,759. BOCES services also generate state aid for LaFayette. For every \$1.00 we spend with BOCES, LaFayette receives \$0.75 back in state aid. LaFayette utilizes BOCES to purchase products and services (ex: financial services, network services, software, science kits, professional development, etc.) to help support students and staff.
- B. Claims Audit Update- Kim Reppi, Claims Auditor for LaFayette Central School district provided an overview of her role as a claims auditor and updated the board on recent trends in the district's claims auditing process.
- C. Mid-Year Report for Big Picture - Susan Osborn, Principal at LaFayette Big Picture School submitted a video mid year update for the board on Big Picture's progress on school improvement efforts.
- D. Legend of Learning April 2020 - Superintendent Belfield congratulated Mr. Sean Zehner who is the Legend of Learning for April 2020. Sean is a Science teacher at LaFayette Jr/Sr High and the Technology Coordinator for LaFayette Central School District, and Girls Varsity Cross Country Coach. Sean has gone above and beyond as the Technology Coordinator during the COVID 19 shutdown. Sean has held daily in-service training for staff on Google Meets and shared ideas for

how to assist students with distance learning. Sean has been a “go-to” resource for staff and students during this challenging time. In addition to serving as Technology Coordinator, Sean also seeks innovative ways to instruct students in his science classes.

#### IV. Old Business

- A. Student Safety- Superintendent Belfield shared that the district has been closely following updates from federal, state, and local agencies during the recent pandemic. Governor Andrew Cuomo has extended the planned school closure until May 15th and the governor is evaluating data on disease transmission to inform the decision to reopen schools and essential businesses. During this extended school closure, LaFayette teachers have been continuing instruction via distance learning. All students were allowed to take their district issued device home so they could connect with teachers. Students and staff without internet access have been provided options for internet access so they can stay connected during this school closure. Rob Kennedy, Food Service Director, recently applied to the NYS Office of Child Nutrition and was approved so that all students in LaFayette can receive breakfast and lunch at no cost during this extended school closure. LaFayette bus drivers and teaching assistants have been delivering meals and learning materials to students. The district has provided personal protective equipment (masks and gloves) to staff who are delivering meals. Our custodians and maintenance workers have been taking advantage of this extended closure to perform additional cleaning and maintenance tasks.
- B. Online Safety & Security- Superintendent Belfield shared that the district has been keeping a watchful eye on information security while students are spending increasing amounts of time online. Students using district accounts or district issued devices have filtered access to content online. Mr. Zehner has also been checking in with teachers regarding which applications are being used to connect with students to make sure that student information is kept secure. The district has also experienced a recent email phishing attempt from an outside source. Our business office member received a request via email to change an employee’s direct deposit information. The business office member reached out to the employee directly to confirm the identity and was informed of the malicious attempt to intercept the employee’s pay. The district is also looking for a new vendor for awareness training, which would include email phishing training. The district is also renewing our vulnerability scanning service to make sure that all devices connected to our district network have up to date software patches. Additionally, the district has requested a list of available vendors for network penetration testing through the Central New York Regional Information Center.

#### V. Communications

- A. Board Member Updates

#### VI. New Business

#### VII. Superintendent’s Report

- A. Superintendent Belfield updated the board on the recently adopted New York State Budget and implications for New York State School Aid. The state budget was significantly impacted by the recent pandemic and school aid was only increased by 0.35%. For LaFayette, this means that foundation aid was not increased compared to 2019-2020 levels. The school aid runs also include a pandemic adjustment of \$105,795 which is LaFayette’s share of the federal CARES act passed to address funding shortages to schools as a result of the pandemic. The state has authorized the Division of Budget to reduce aid to schools in three different adjustment periods up to the amount designated under the pandemic adjustment. The state can apply for a waiver with the federal government to exceed the pandemic adjustment. The three adjustment periods for state aid end on December 31, 2020. Governor Cuomo announced at his press conference on Sunday that he is considering significant cuts to school funding. Out of an abundance of caution, LaFayette is looking

to hold on filling certain vacant positions for the 2020-2021 school year. The following vacant positions for 2020-2021 will not be filled: an elementary vacancy at Grimshaw Elementary, and a science position at LaFayette High School. Ms. Blosssey, Principal at Grimshaw Elementary is making adjustments to staffing assignments to make sure that class sizes are balanced equitably. Mr. Ryan has informed me that the following science courses will not be available to students for next year: Chemistry R, SUPA Chemistry- College course, AP Biology, SUPA Forensics- College course. This will be subject to review and change based on any final course signups.

- B. Superintendent Belfield updated the board on revisions to the school district budget vote and board election based on recent executive orders related to the pandemic. Governor Cuomo has delayed budget votes until after June 1st. There has not been an exact date announced yet. Board petitions are still available and the deadline has been extended. New York State School Board Association has advised that individuals should not be going door to door for petition signatures given the recent pandemic. Additional guidance will likely be issued by Governor Cuomo in the coming days regarding the date for the budget vote and election. Superintendent Belfield will provide updates to the board and community as more information becomes available. Given these changes to the budget vote and board election, Superintendent Belfield suggested the following changes to the May 2020 board meeting schedule:
  - 1. Reschedule the May 7th board meeting for May 14th
  - 2. Cancel the May 19th board meeting
  - 3. Hold the May 28th meeting. This meeting will likely serve as the budget hearing.
- C. Superintendent Belfield shared that a group of thoughtful community members are looking to honor the senior class of 2020 with yard signs celebrating their senior year. The sports boosters have agreed to assist and are collecting donations for the yard signs. The signs are currently in production and we are arranging for high school staff members to assist with delivering the signs to our seniors.
- D. Superintendent Belfield updated the board on the Junior Prom. Principal Ryan was able to contact the venue hosting the prom and the associated vendors and secured Saturday June 20th as the alternate date for the prom. As this date approaches, Mr. Ryan will share additional information with students and staff.
- E. Superintendent Belfield commended the efforts of students, parents, teachers, food service employees, bus drivers, and staff during this challenging time. Thank you to everyone for pulling together to make sure that students receive meals and continued learning opportunities during this time.

## VIII. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Board Action Items
  - 1. Resolution Authorizing Superintendent to Execute Change Orders During Capital Construction Project
  - 2. Approval of Transportation Requests
  - 3. CSE, CPSE, and 504 Recommendations
  - 4. Treasurer's Report - March 2020
  - 5. Day Automation Bid Award
  - 6. OCM BOCES Administrative and Capital Budget Vote
  - 7. Budget Transfers April 20, 2020
  - 8. Approve Budget Transfers over \$10,000
  - 9. BOE Meeting Dates 2020-2021
  - 10. MOA LaFayette Clerical Association
  - 11. MOA LaFayette Non-Instructional Employees Association
  - 12. MOA LaFayette Teachers Association

- 13. Donation - Donors Choose
- 14. Approval of Employment Agreement J. Belfield 2020-2025

- B. Approval of Personnel Items
  - 1. Approval of Credit hours
  - 2. Instructional Resignation
  - 3. Instructional Appointment

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

- IX. Administration of Oath of Office - Superintendent Jeremy Belfield
  - A. Administration of Oath of Office - Superintendent Jeremy Belfield

**Trustee Reyburn left the meeting at approximately 6:15 PM**

- X. Board Non-Action Items
  - A. Strategic Plan Update- The New York State Education Department recently completed virtual school visits at the Onondaga Nation School and LaFayette Jr/Sr High. NYSED representatives assisted Principal Gonyea and Principal Ryan by highlighting progress on school improvement goals and provided ideas for adjustments to school improvement efforts for next year. Once NYSED releases revised school and district improvement plan templates, school improvement teams and district improvement teams will conduct virtual meetings during the months of May and June to update school improvement goals for next year. Also, since the federal and state government has cancelled state exams at the elementary, middle and high school levels, our school accountability status will likely remain unchanged for 2020-2021. This will provide LaFayette with an extra year to fine tune improvement efforts. Our district PLC facilitators are working with staff on April 20th and April 27th to reflect on the success and challenges faced during distance learning. We are asking facilitators to think about ways that we can enhance student and staff experiences through distance learning. In future meetings, we are asking staff to identify areas that we may anticipate a need for catching students up when we return to school. We are also looking at plans to help address the social, emotional, and mental health needs of our students when they return to school. Principal Gonyea and Administrative Intern Trisha Fogarty have secured Dr. Darrel Tonemah to video conference with staff on strategies for addressing the needs of students and staff during this challenging time. Superintendent Belfield has also been participating in a series of panel discussions with educational consultant Bill Daggett from Model Schools and his senior fellow former NYSED Commissioner of Education MaryEllen Elia. The conversations have focused on how to address the wide range of needs of learners and school districts in the midst of this extended school closure.
- XI. Financials - School Business Manager Cindy Daley reported about the School Lunch program. We are anticipating we will end the year in the red. Generally, March and May are quite profitable, but without school being open, this lack of revenue will affect the P&L significantly.
  - A. Warrants and Claims - March 2020
  - B. Financials - March 2020
  - C. Cash Flow - March 2020

XII. Calendar Review

A. Upcoming Events

1. Extended School Closure through at least May 15th per Governor Cuomo's Executive Order
  - a) Distance Learning will continue during the extended closure
  - b) Meals (at no cost) are available to all LaFayette students
  - c) First responders in need of child care can contact Child Care Solutions at 315-446-1220, ext. 303
2. Next Board of Education Meeting: Thursday May 14, 2020 at 5:30 PM - Big Picture Commons- Public to Participate via Video Conferencing

XIII. Closing Remarks

A. Public Communications to the Board

1. Anne Courtwright congratulated Superintendent Belfield regarding his new contract. Ms. Courtwright inquired as to the status of adjustments to the school calendar, annual professional performance reviews, tenure awards, and end of year tasks (ex: classroom supply orders). Superintendent Belfield shared that the district is waiting on additional guidance from Governor Cuomo and the New York State Education Department regarding school calendar adjustments, APPR, and tenure awards. Superintendent Belfield shared that several principals have coordinated with building staff to complete classroom orders for next school year and that Principal Ryan will be in touch with staff in the near future regarding orders.

XIV. Proposed Executive Session - Subject to board approval

- A. Enter into the Executive Session for the purpose of collective bargaining with the clerical association and to discuss the employment history of particular individuals at 6:35 pm.

**Motion: Carried    1st: M. Whitney    2nd: J. LeBlanc**  
**Vote: Yes:5 No:0 Abstain:    Absent:C. Dwyer, R. Reyburn**

- B. Reconvene into Open Session at 7:49 pm.

**Motion:    1st: J. LeBlanc 2nd: J. Gates**  
**Vote: Yes:5 No: 0 Abstain:    Absent: C. Dwyer, R. Reyburn**

XV. Adjournment

- A. Adjourn the Meeting at 7:50 pm.

**Motion:    1st: S. Dow    2nd: M. Walker**  
**Vote: Yes:5 No:0 Abstain:    Absent: C. Dwyer, R. Reyburn**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Paula Hibbert