

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
February 16, 2022

I. Opening

A. Call to Order - the regular Board of Education meeting for the Lafayette Central School district was called to order at 5:31 pm by President Reyburn. In attendance were Trustee J. LeBlanc, C. Dwyer, M. Walker, J. Gates, Amy Roe-Ryan, Superintendent Jeremy Belfield, Interim School Business Manager and Deputy Clerk Peter Mahunik. Trustee Stanton was not present. Trustee Walker entered at 5:33 p.m.

1. Guests in attendance - K. Davidson, B. Oliver, B. Rogers, T. LaRose, D. Munnell, S. Munnell, B. Lasky, K. Newkirk, D. Amidon, L. Chapman, M. Johnson, S. Albro, J. Christiana, B. Klaiber, K. Klaiber, Brandon B., A. Courtwright, E. Sopchak, L. Oppedisano, J. McDonald, T. White.
2. Virtual Guests - Patricia Amidon, Jennifer Blossey, Ashley Brown, Dan Cameron, Courtney Diefendorf, Maria Edwards, Matthew Enigk, Simone Gonyea, Amanda Kinsella, Dylan Kinsella, Ashley Kolbeck, Ashley McCormick, Winonah McCoy, James McKenna, Teresa Miller, Crystal Morel, Karen Ocque, Kayleigh Olrich, Sue Osborn, Jenni Prentice, Megan Remon, Kimberly Reppi, Megan Zehner, Sean Zehner.

B. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Reyburn at 5:31 pm.

C. Opening Remarks - President Reyburn welcomed everyone and asked that everyone sign in. He made mention to Robert's Rules, gave directions on addressing the Board and gave the time limit on public comment. Trustee Reyburn read changes to agenda as of February 14, 2022. These changes were agreed upon by the Board.

Motion: Carried **1st:** Trustee Dwyer **2nd:** Trustee LeBlanc
Vote: Yes: 6 **No:** 0 **Abstain:** 0 **Absent:** Trustee Stanton

II. Approval of Minutes - January 19, 2022

A. Regular Minutes - Approved without changes.

III. District Presentation

A. Legend of Learning - February 2022 - Sarah Munnell- The board recognized Ms. Sarah Munnell, Typist II, as the Legend of Learning for February 2022. Ms. Munnell has served in multiple roles throughout the district as a building secretary, Secretary to the Superintendent, as the Board Clerk and most recently in the district office handling accounts payable. She is set to retiring but we hope to keep her around. Ms. Munnell is dedicated and goes above and beyond to make sure that all of our staff and students are supported. Congratulations Sarah!

B. MLK Jr. Unsung Hero Award - Mrs. Oliver- The board recognized Mrs. Oliver, coordinator of the LaFayette After School Program, for her recent recognition from Syracuse University as an Unsung Hero. This award recognizes individuals who embody the spirit of community service shown by Dr. Martin Luther King. Mrs. Oliver has provided a caring and nurturing environment for LaFayette students for over 35 years. Ms. Oliver almost broke Facebook posts with the number of warm responses from all those whose lives she has impacted over the years.

- C. National Board Certified Teacher Procurement - David Amidon- The board recognized Mr. David Amidon, Science teacher at LaFayette Jr/Sr High School, for attaining National Board Certification. This award is reserved for teachers who met rigorous standards through intensive study, expert evaluation, self-assessment, and peer review. Mr. Amidon is a distinguished educator who was selected for inaugural cohort of the New York State Master Teacher program, sailed aboard the ship Reuben Lasker as part of its science crew through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration "Teacher at Sea" program, and engages in a number of other professional pursuits that benefit our students. The board thanked Mr. Amidon for his commitment to excellence and for attaining National Board certification.
- Mr. Amidon shared his journey to his achievement. It was definitely a lot of work. He was thankful for the support from the District.
- D. [EL M2 Performance Task Presentation](#) - Mrs. Prentice and two of her fourth grade students shared an overview of the recent performance task that they conducted using the new ELA materials from EL Education. Superintendent Belfield and the board thanked Mrs. Prentice and her students for sharing this learning experience.
- E. [Budget Presentation](#) - 2022-2023 Draft Administrative, Capital, Program and BOCES - Mr. Belfield thanked the community members and the staff members for joining the committee meeting. School Business Official Peter Mahunik presented the draft portion of the 2022-23 administrative, capital, program, and BOCES budget. The draft budget supports all of our current programming for students and continues our commitment to address the social, emotional, and mental health needs of our students with the addition of a school social worker at Grimshaw Elementary. Mr. MaHunik spoke on revenue and expenses. He spoke on the process which started in December of 2021. There was a meeting to find out where we are and what needs to be done. The revenue which comes from State Aid. The Governor determines what's received by our enrollment. We do not have a lot of control over revenue. We would like to have a budget that meets the highest education for our students and at the same time be responsible to the taxpayers of our community. We purchase a lot of items through BOCES. It's cost efficient, we don't need the full service and it is 80% aidable. Transportation aid is 90% aidable. Then there is construction building aid which is 84% aidable. We have to maintain our building which costs. By April 1st it will be known how much the District will receive. One concern with the executive budget is the one shot funding. We have to keep on our radar that this money is not going to continue. Mr. Mahunik continued with other components of the budget. Tax Cap- Every school district has a tax cap. This started about ten years ago. We will analyze all supplies and find a cheaper, better way to do things. Expenditure part of the Budget - There are three parts to the expenditure part of the budget. There is the administrative, capital and program components. These components are then broken down into five categories; salaries, equipment, supplies, contractual or BOCES. The administrative part of the budget is up 4.9% due to liability insurance. Another insurance is cyber protection and it's getting more and more expensive. We are working on bringing down all increases. Capital component of the budget - This is the operation on our plan to keep the buildings clean and keep everything running. Debt service - most of these debts are aid funded between 84% & 90%. Mr. Mahunik spoke on BANs and Bonds and how they are used in capital projects. Program Budget - This is the instructional part of the budget. It includes teaching, special education, instructional support and transportation. The driving factor behind the special education expense is the BOCES component so is analyzed throughout the school year. The benefits budget is currently up 4.9 % but this will come down.

Trustee Dwyer asked if any of the BANs are dropping off next year.

Mr. MaHunik - It will drop off the following year.

Trustee Dwyer asked about BAN and Bond rates.

Mr. MaHunik - A bond is lower but the issue cost is more expensive. A BAN has higher interest rates but cheaper to get one.

IV. Communications

- A. Board Member Updates - Mr. Belfield spoke on the Baker family's donation to the Booster Club to help fund an end of year celebration for student athletes and coaches.

V. New Business - No New Business

VI. Superintendent Report

- A. Superintendent Belfield updated the board on the status of the current capital project and thanked the board for hosting a special meeting on Monday February 7th to award bids for the prime contractors. Turner Construction hosted a kickoff meeting on Wednesday with the prime contractors to review important safety protocols, and required bonds/insurance policies prior to commencing work. The construction team will meet each Wednesday to review updates on schedules, respond to RFIs and review the status of construction. We look forward to working with our construction team to perform the improvements to our facilities. Superintendent thanked the board for their commitment to making sure that our students have safe, modern, and up to date learning environments. Superintendent Belfield thanked the LaFayette voters for approving the capital improvements and we look forward to showcasing the renovated spaces once construction concludes after the summer of 2023.
- B. Superintendent Belfield updated the board on the building condition survey due to NYSED in 2022. The construction team and architects will be touring district facilities in the coming weeks and reviewing any current facility needs to update our building survey; We are looking at February break. This is a great time to get into spaces and classrooms that are normally occupied. Our last building condition survey was completed in 2015 and the capital projects to date have and will address any high priority facility needs. The building condition survey will include all school buildings, maintenance buildings, and storage buildings.
- C. Superintendent Belfield updated the board on continued efforts to address the facility needs at the Onondaga Nation School, which is a state owned building. Governor Hochul has allocated \$6.1M in her executive budget proposal to address critical facility needs at ONS such as the replacement of the roof, window replacements and upgrading the HVAC system at the school. Critically lacking at the Onondaga Nation School is space. Superintendent Belfield has been working with Senators Mannion and May to allocate \$20M to address the larger space and programming needs at the school including additional learning spaces for providing special education services and academic intervention services to our students. We are grateful for the efforts of our elected officials to address these concerns and we appreciate the advocacy efforts of the Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation.
- D. Superintendent Belfield updated the board on recent advocacy efforts with elected officials relative to New York State School Aid. Elected officials have committed to fully funding the foundation aid formula for schools; however, certain metrics within the formula include outdated census data from the year 2000. The next step in addressing equitable school funding is to make sure that the school funding formula is studied and updated to account for the current educational needs of students. Small rural districts like LaFayette will only receive a 3% increase in state funding until the formula is updated and reviewed. While the district appreciates any increase in state support,

LaFayette is highly reliant on state aid for revenues to support our program. Central New York School Board Association hosted a session last Saturday with Dr. Rick Timbs to review the current challenges with the school foundation aid formula and to share ideas with elected officials on how the formula could be updated and improved. Mr. Belfield thanked Dr. Timbs and Derick Dorsey.

- E. CNY STEAM School - Superintendent Belfield updated the board on the planning efforts for the new regional high school housed in the former Central Tech High School building. This regional high school will be available for students in the city of Syracuse and CNY with a focus on science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and the arts. The committee worked on how to help build interest in this new high school program at the middle school level and discussed entrance criteria for students. The committee emphasized that enrollment should be open to all students through an application process and recommendation process. Part of the selection process will include an interview with prospective students to discuss student interest in the program. The program is building key partnerships with businesses in the CNY area, such as Amazon, WCNY, Upstate Medical University, Syracuse University, Syracuse Stage, Syracuse Builders Exchange, CNY Film Professionals, MACNY, C&S, Hueber Bruer, United Radio, and other local businesses and universities. The school building will undergo an extensive renovation and will be open for student enrollment in the next few years. Mr. Belfield thanked Dr. Manning and Dr. Jaime Alicea for having LaFayette to have a voice in this process and afford those opportunities for our students.
- F. Superintendent Belfield congratulated Cianna Papineau on scoring 1,000 points as a Varsity Girls Basketball Player. Cianna joins an elite club of three Lady Lancers to reach this milestone. The gym was packed on Tuesday, February 8th to celebrate this accomplishment. The Lady Lancers are heading to sectionals on Friday February 18th at 6:00 PM in a home game facing Westmoreland at 6:00 PM.
- G. Superintendent Belfield thanked Coach Jerry Kelly and the LaFayette Boys Basketball program for raising money on Saturday to benefit the More than a Game Foundation with proceeds benefiting the local Children's hospital. The team raised \$750 on Saturday by soliciting donations during their last regular game of the season. Coach Brad Keysor from the Southern Hills Football team generously donated \$1,250 to bring the total donation to \$2,000 for this deserving cause. The boys are also bound for sectionals and will face Sandy Creek on Thursday February 17th at home. The game starts at 6:00 PM.
- H. Superintendent Belfield served as a judge for the recent Skills USA Competition hosted at SUNY Morrisville on Friday February 11, 2022 for the Early Childhood Education programs at several local schools. Superintendent Belfield had the chance to meet four aspiring educators and listen to sample lesson designs. Thank you to Ms. Victoria Malbone, student teacher with Mrs. Chapman at Grimshaw Elementary and former Skills USA National Contestant for the opportunity to meet these aspiring educators.
- I. COVID Case and Testing Updates- Superintendent Belfield updated the board on the district's ongoing response to COVID cases. The district has reported a total of 338 COVID cases this school year (275 students, 40 teachers, and 23 staff). 57% (193 cases) of those cases occurred since the scheduled school break during the month of December. Starting in January, the district began receiving rapid COVID test kits to distribute to students and staff members. The Governor asked schools to provide a rapid test kit to every student prior to the February break. Parents can also contact their child's principal to request a rapid test kit. Our amazing school nurses continue to perform COVID surveillance testing every Tuesday in our schools and symptomatic PCR testing for any student who has parental permission. Our nurses have performed 2,107 PCR COVID tests since the start of this school year through today. 95 of those COVID tests yielded a positive result. Case counts have dropped significantly in the past two weeks as a result of lower overall community transmission in the surrounding area.

J. COVID Mitigation Measures - Mask Requirement - Superintendent Belfield updated the board on the recent court case from Nassau County Supreme Court where a judge ruled that the mask mandate put in place by the Governor and State Health Commissioner violated the State constitution. A previous court case from Albany County Supreme Court during the month of November upheld the mask requirement for students and staff. The Governor and State Health Department have appealed the Nassau County court decision to the appellate court. While the appeal is being considered, a judge has issued a temporary stay order for the mask requirement. Since the month of December, Superintendents across the state have been echoing the challenges that the mask requirement places on students and staff. The Governor has announced that the state will evaluate a combination of factors to determine whether masks should be removed (positivity rates, vaccinations, and hospital admissions). Neighboring states such as New Jersey, Connecticut, Delaware, and Massachusetts have announced end dates for school mask requirements. Only the state or county can impose a mask mandate under the current public health regulations. The Onondaga Nation Council has issued a requirement for students and staff to wear masks at the Onondaga Nation School. Until the state requirement is lifted, all students and staff are required to wear a mask inside of schools. Superintendent Belfield encouraged students and staff members to begin talking about a potential end to the mask requirement based on the recent announcement by the Governor.

Trustee Dwyer - Can the County override the State?

Mr. Belfield - They can set a more restrictive measure but they cannot set a less restrictive measure.

Mr. Belfield spoke on a letter he authored. He is trying to get 23 Superintendents' inputs on what the contents of the letter should be. The letter was shared with Ryan McMahon. The letter basically asks when is the end game....When does the masks come off.

VII. Policy Discussion

A. LaFayette Board of Education Policy Review

1. Second Reading with a motion to waive the third reading for Policies 3420, 3421, 6121, 7551

Motion: Carried **1st:** Trustee Walker **2nd:** Trustee Gates
Vote: Yes: 6 **No:** 0 **Abstain:** 0 **Absent:** Trustee Stanton

VIII. Roll Call Vote

A. Transportation Proposition Resolution

The motion having been duly moved, the resolution was acted upon by the Board of Education and there were 6 votes in favor of the resolution and 0 votes against the resolution as follows:

Ronald 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>Absent</u>
Matthew Walker	Voting	<u>Yes</u>

The resolution was declared adopted.

IX. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Board Action Items

1. CSE, CPSE, and 504 Recommendations
2. Budget Transfers - January 2022
3. Treasurer's Report - December 2021
4. Combining Contracts
5. MOA LCSD Payroll & Benefits Acct. Clerk II & the LCSD
6. Donation to ONS - William Hanley
7. OCM BOCES Board Member Nominations 2022

Motion: Carried **1st:** Trustee Walker **2nd:** Trustee Roe-Ryan
Vote: Yes: 6 **No:** 0 **Abstain:** 0 **Absent:** Trustee Stanton

B. Approval of Personnel Items

1. Resignation/Retirement
2. Leave of Absence
3. Instructional Appointment
4. Substitute Appointment
5. Non-Instructional Appointment

Motion: Carried **1st:** Trustee Gates **2nd:** Trustee LeBlanc
Vote: Yes: 6 **No:** 0 **Abstain:** 0 **Absent:** Trustee Stanton

X. Financials - FYI

- A. Warrants and Claims - December 2021
- B. Financials - December 2021
- C. Cash Flow - December 2021

Peter Mahunick spoke on the December financials - At this point we are beyond the halfway point of the school year. Everything is looking good this school year and nothing unusual to report.

Trustee Dwyer - How is purchasing going?

Mr. Mahunick - We cut off purchasing in December. Everyone has done a great job - supervisors, principals, the District as a whole. We are in really good shape right now and hoping to continue the rest of the year.

Mr. Belfield - Grants are the only funds being spent right now.

XI. Board Non-Action Items

- A. Strategic Plan Update- Superintendent Belfield updated the board about the recent DCIP Committee Meeting held on Monday February 7, 2022. The committee reviewed supports available through Mid-State Regional Partnership Center, which include support for the district's special education plan. This plan will focus on improving family and community engagement around literacy with a focus on improving communication, promoting the use of volunteers, encouraging learning at home, decision making structures, and collaboration with the community. The building principals also provided the committee with updates on their building goals focused on improving academic outcomes for students and addressing the social, emotional, and mental health needs of our students. Each building is also performing a needs assessment to help determine how we can best meet the needs of our students. Grimshaw and the Onondaga Nation School are currently doing "one book one school".

XII. Calendar Review

A. Upcoming Events

- Early Dismissal for PLCs every Monday - 1:45 GS/ONS; 2:00 HS/BP
 1. February 21st - 25th - Winter Recess
 2. Feb 28th -March 1st - Dr. Seuss Week at Grimshaw
 3. March 2nd - Ganä•hdóha•' / Ganähdoha? Buds in the tree
 4. March 4th - American Red Cross Blood Drive - small gym @ HS
- High School Musical "Freaky Friday" 7:00 - 9:00 pm
 5. March 5th - High School Musical "Freaky Friday" 7:00 to 9:00 pm
 6. March 16th - BOE Meeting @ Big Picture Commons @ 5:30 pm

XIII. Public Comments

A. Public Communications to the Board -

Community Member Steve Albro - Mr. Albro was contacted by the high school Assistant Principal, Mr. McKenna, about an assignment his son completed. His son received in-school suspension after completing his assignment as he thought he was supposed to. He would appreciate it if his son was sent back to class.

Community Member Michael Johnson - Mr. Johnson commented on Mr. Belfield's update on COVID 19. He thinks Mr. Belfield is going in the right direction but does not want to be misled. He shared that his six year old son came home saying he is depressed and he has communicated with other parents who also think that the District's decision on masks is ridiculous. He wants to be able to choose. Mr. Johnson spoke on the Superintends' letter to Mr. McMahon. He also shared how he felt about the District's decision on masks.

Mr. Belfield responded with appreciation for Mr. Johnson sharing what's on his heart and mind. The District serves all kids and the frustration is certainly heard from parents and fear is also heard from some families too. It is recognized that there is going to be a point and time but the District does not determine what that is or when that is..when masks come off. Public health regulations lie with the Governor and with the State Health Department. The District is trying to do what's right and best for our kids.

Community Member Tracey White spoke on the Superintendents' letter to Mr. McMahon. Ms. White shared her thoughts on mask decision making.

XIV. Proposed Executive Session - Subject to Board Approval

- A. Enter into the Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters at 7:11 pm.

Motion: Carried **1st:** Trustee Dwyer **2nd:** Trustee Gates
Vote: Yes: 6 **No:** 0 **Abstain:** 0 **Absent:** Trustee Stanton

- B. Reconvene into Open Session at 9:30 pm

Motion: Carried **1st:** Trustee LeBlanc **2nd:** Trustee Gates
Vote: Yes: 6 **No:** 0 **Abstain:** 0 **Absent:** Trustee Stanton

XV. Adjournment

- A. Adjourn the meeting at 9:30 pm

Motion: Carried **1st:** Trustee Roe-Ryan **2nd:** Trustee Dwyer
Vote: Yes: 6 **No:** 0 **Abstain:** 0 **Absent:** Trustee Stanton

Respectfully Submitted,
Paula Hibbert