

LaFayette Central School District  
Board of Education - Regular Meeting  
Location: The Big Picture Commons  
Address: 3122 US Route 11  
LaFayette, NY 13084  
February 12, 2025

I. Opening

A. Call to Order - The Board of Education meeting for the Lafayette Central School district was called to order at 5:32 pm by President Reyburn. In attendance were Trustee J. Gates, A. Moore, A. Roe-Ryan, M. LaCava, L. Podsiedlik, Superintendent Jeremy Belfield, School Business Official and Deputy Clerk Laurie Holtsbery. Trustee Stanton was not present.

1. Guests in attendance - Tomm LaRose, Rob Kennedy
2. Virtual Guests - Ashley Kolbeck, James Mckenna, Jason P. Ryan

B. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Reyburn at 5:32 pm

C. Opening Remarks - President Reyburn reviewed Board conducts and gave directions to the restrooms.

II. Approval of Minutes

A. Regular Minutes January 22, 2025 - Trustee Moore and Trustee Roe-Ryan were not present for this meeting

<b>Motion:</b> Carried	<b>1st:</b> Trustee LaCava	<b>2nd:</b> Trustee Podsiedlik
<b>Vote: Yes:</b> 6	<b>No:</b> 0	<b>Abstain:</b> 0 <b>Absent:</b> 1

III. District Presentation

A. Legend of Learning February 2025 - Charles (Chuck) Gebhardt - Congratulations to Mr. Charles "Chuck" Gebhardt who was selected as the January 2025 Legend of Learning! Chuck is a custodial worker at Grimshaw Elementary School. The individual who nominated Chuck shared the following: On the day after Christmas in the year 2000, LaFayette CSD hired Chuck Gebhardt as a custodial worker. Chuck is always happy to greet students with a fist bump, a high five, and spend time with staff members connecting with them and making them feel welcome. Chuck works hard to make sure that our school shines for our students and staff each and every night. Congratulations to Mr. Chuck Gebhardt, Legend of Learning for February 2025. Chuck - Thank you for your continued commitment to excellence!

- B. Supervisors Update - Rob Kennedy - Nothing much changed from last year. A bit of change at Grimshaw with the lunch boxes. The breakfast counts are up at Grimshaw. The high school and ONS are pretty much the same. Meals are still free for now. Still lacking substitutes. Some are coming along which is helpful. The current staff is great. The staff is keeping up with the request to feed 180 kids in one hour.

Trustee Reburn asked about high school students eating in 10 minutes.

Mr. Kennedy responded that the students get 30 minutes to eat and participate in WIN.

Trustee LaCava commented that feeding 180 kids in an hour is impressive.

Trustee Podsiedlik works with Regional Farm School Coordinator - Lizzi and learns that the District is wonderful to work with and that the District purchases some NYS

products. Trustee Podsiedlik would like to know what the products are being purchased.

Mr. Kennedy responded that the District does harvest of the month which is doing well.

He has bought beets and potatoes. The beets did not go over so well.

The State came out with different forms to fill out. Milk is the biggest issue.

Mr. Kennedy shared details of purchasing NYS products and how other districts are doing.

Trustee Roe-Ryan thanked Mr. Kennedy for accommodating the WIN program.

C. [Budget Update - Program, Administrative, Capital Expenditures](#)

1. Transportation Proposition Resolution

a. Transportation Proposition Roll Call Vote

Ms. Holtzery gave the budget update - Expenditures. Next month will be an update on revenues. The budget will be adopted on March 26th. Goals are the same, starting with contractual obligations then utilizing grants.

With revenue the tax cap is calculated. Ms. Holtzery shared slides of the update - Federal funding - Salaries - and explained how it all works

together and other funds involved. How the Governor's executive budget works in correlation to the District's budget was explained. Foundation aid

increased. Excess cost aid and textbook aid decreased. Ms. Holtzery

explained the expense driven aids - BOCES aid. Transportation aid is

down. Overall change in state aid budget to budget is approximately

\$48,000. What we have for the budget was next - The administrative

portion is the overall expenses - Central Services and Curriculum

Development & Supervision. The capital portion of the budget is the

operations and maintenance, and debt service and interfund. There was

an increase in Operation of Plant, and Maintenance of Plant decreased.

Debt service - Bonds decreased. Ms. Holtzery shared information from

meeting with Fiscal Advisors. She gave an update on the 24-25 Capital Outlay Project and explained the need for a transportation proposition. Trustee Moore talked about the electric buses and meeting the mandate with the suburban being electric.

Mr. Belfield responded that the State is starting to back out of the EV mandate and gave info on where the State is with the mandate. It is time to retire two buses due to it not being efficient to repair the buses, and they are also very rusty. Two new buses arrived and will be on the road after the winter break. Two more buses will arrive in April.

Trustee Roe-Ryan questioned figures in Ms. Holtsbery's presentation.

Ms. Holtsbery will look into it and get back with more reasoning why the aid rate decreased.

Trustee Reyburn questioned the ratio.

Ms. Holtsbery will look into it and get back to the Board.

Ms. Holtsbery continued with the Program Budget. "Special Education" needs are increasing and the District will be planning for that. "Instructional Support" includes a project that will be done through BOCES for switches at Grimshaw. These switches are the backbone of our network and are no longer supported by CISCO. The Program Budget also includes "General Education" and "Transportation". Last is the Preliminary Benefits that includes Benefit Liability, ERS, TRS, Social Security, Workers' Compensation, Unemployment Insurance, Health, Vision & Dental. Workers' Compensation is down; Claims are down and the cost is down. Unemployment Insurance is also in better standing.

#### IV. Communications

- A. Student Board Member Updates - No updates for this meeting. Ms. Reed attended the boys basketball game in DeRuyter to monitor the scorebook.
- B. Board Member Updates - Trustee Roe-Ryan is excited the US Air Force band will be coming to the District. Tickets are required and can be picked up at the LaFayette Town Hall.

Mr. Belfield thanked the Town Supervisor, Bill McConnell for advocating for the town. The District is very happy to host this event.

Trustee Reyburn shared information from the last BOCES meeting. One of the conversations around the table was school boards' behavior, and also the search for Superintendents.

Trustee LaCava asked about school boards' behavior and if situations have been figured out

Trustee Reyburn does not know if they have been figured out and the board will talk more about it in executive session.

V. Policy Discussion

A. LaFayette Board of Education Policy Review

1. Second Reading for Policy 6310, 6320, 6410, 6411, 6420, 6430, 6450

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

2. First Reading for Policy 1210, 3311, 6520, 6530, 6540

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

Trustee Gates commented on the new policy - Policy 3311.

- VI. Superintendent Report - Tonight Ms. Reed is monitoring a basketball game score board and will not be with us. Mr. Belfield reviewed the concerns and requests in Ms. Reed's report from the last meeting, and shared what opportunities may be possible to address the concerns. Statistics from the Department of Labor on computer information studies, and available job opportunities were shared. Mr. Belfield went on to share the available computer courses and clubs in the District and the potential courses the District is looking to offer and approve for grades seven through twelve. The total budget for a computer teacher and the plan for a classroom space was shared.

Trustee Reburn asked if a club leader has to be a teacher.

Mr. Belfield responded that he had to look into it and get back to Mr. Reyburn.

Trustee Gates asked how the interest level for a classroom size is determined.

Mr. Belfield responded that it would be done by a student survey.

Trustee Moore commented on the students' interests in the classes being offered and hiring a full time teacher that would need to be tenured.

Mr. Belfield responded that the District is looking for a part-time teacher or sharing a teacher through BOCES.

There was a conversation about the different clubs available and finding a teacher to run the club.

Trustee Ryan mentioned the WIN option and clubs fitting into that period in order that children would not need to stay after school.

Mr. Belfield talked about the teachers' certification required for a computer teacher and the colleges that offer the courses for this certification.

Trustee Podsiedlik talked about the interest survey.

Trustee Gate asked if it would be available to the Big Picture students.

Mr. Belfield answered that it would be.

Trustee LaCava shared that he was concerned as Trustee Moore was about the future interests of students.

Trustee Moore continued with his reasons for concern.

There was a conversation about students' future interest in the courses being offered and the courses that would better prepare students for what is on the horizon in the next 5-10 years.

Mr. Belfield followed by stating he will continue with the survey and shared his concerns for the layout of the survey.

Trustee Gates mentioned future enrollment being a concern.

Mr. Belfield continued his report with his trip to Albany at the end of January for Legislative Advocacy. This was a last minute invite for meet and greet opportunities. This was a great way to connect with local Legislators. Mr. Belfield thanked his colleagues in the Mohawk Valley and Senator Griffo. There was a conversation about protestors in the Albany area. Next is advocating for predictability funding. Mr. Belfield attended the Legislative breakfast with local Legislators. He shared information from this event and who attended.

The water was tested for lead as required by NYS. The threshold has been lowered. The results will go out to parents. Thanks to all who were involved in completing the testing.

Trustee LaCava asked about posting signs in areas where the lead readings were of concern.

Mr. Belfield responded that signs are posted, where possible.

Mr. Belfield visited Eastern Suffolk BOCES sponsored by OCM BOCES student services. He had the opportunity to visit the JROTC program - Navy and Air Force.

The District met with Ashley McGraw Architects and Turner Construction for the \$17M Capitol Project. The meeting went well. Thanks to the Teachers for their great ideas and feedback. Mr. Belfield spoke about emergency closing days, and avoiding remote learning.

Trustee Moore asked about possibly cutting into spring break due to snow days being exhausted.

Mr. Belfield responded that it is a possibility. Attendance probably won't be great.

Trustee LaCava asked if school could be held on a Saturday.

Mr. Belfield responded that he is not sure if school can be held on a Saturday for State Ed. purposes. There are restrictions on Sundays.

There was a conversation about the number of holidays and complying with NYS Ed. requirements.

VII. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Board Action Items

1. CSE, CPSE, 504 Recommendations
2. Budget Transfers - January 2025
3. Treasurer's Report - January 2025
4. Calendar/Student/Staff/HS/BP/GS/ONS 25-26
5. Board Meeting Dates - 2025-2026
6. Combining Contract - OCS & LaF - Soccer - Track - Softball
7. Fire Inspector Recommendation
8. External Auditor RFP MM&B 2025 thru 2029

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

Trustee Podsiedlik asked about April break being so early.

Mr. Belfield responded that he tried and referred to the teachers' contract and the cost of bringing bus drivers in on Good Friday.

B. Approval of Personnel Items

1. Resignations
2. Leave of Absence
3. Substitute Recommendations
4. Interscholastic Recommendations

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

VIII. Financials - FYI

- A. Warrants and Claims 2025
- B. Financials 2025
- C. Cash Flow 2025

IX. Calendar Review

A. Upcoming Events

- Co-Curricular Club meets during the week 2:45 pm - 3:15 pm - Refer to the District Calendar for specific club meeting dates.

1. Feb. 17th - 21st - Winter Recess
2. Feb. 25th - Blood Drive at the HS - Small Gym 8:00am - 2:00pm
3. Feb. 26th - ONS Family Night 5:00pm - 8:00pm
4. Mar. 8th - SAT Exams
5. Academic Galleria at ONS 9:00am - 3:00pm
6. BOE Meeting at The Big Picture Commons 5:30pm

X. Public Comments

- A. Public Communications to the Board - No public comment

XI. Proposed Executive Session - Subject to Board Approval

- A. Enter into the Executive Session for the purpose of litigation of a student (04862/2021) at 6:49 pm.

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

- B. Reconvene into Open Session at 8:10 pm

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

XII. Adjournment

- A. Adjourn the meeting at 8:10 pm

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

Respectfully Submitted,  
Paula Hibbert