

LaFayette Central School District
Board of Education - Regular Meeting
Location: The Big Picture Commons
3122 US Route 11 North
LaFayette, New York 13084
February 15, 2023

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. Gates, C. Dwyer, S. Stanton, A. Roe-Ryan, A. Moore, M. LaCava, Superintendent Jeremy Belfield, School Business Official and Deputy Clerk Laurie Holtsbery.

1. Guests in attendance - Susan Osborn, Jim Kesler, Jess Nguyen, Chris Gray, Verna Jones, Stephanie Moltion, Lisa Chapman, Megan Burns, Karrie Haumann, Simone Gonyea, Anne Courtwright, Joseph Fox, Jen McDonald, Ashley Bennett, Ev Powless, Jennifer Powless, Hazel Powless, Dale Shinneman, Gregg, Shenneman, David Stablein, Braxtin Jones, Wesley Stevens, Jade Printup, Katlyn Arnold, Bruce Benedict, Walt Nowes, Leonardo Oppedisano, Jason Ryan

2. Virtual Guests - Lisa Kurtz, James McKenna, Karen Ocque,

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

C. Opening Remarks - President Reyburn gave reminders of meeting conduct and procedures.

II. Approval of Minutes -

A. Special Meeting Minutes - December 21, 2022 - Abstain - Trustee Roe-Ryan, Stanton & LaCava

Motion: Carried **1st:** Trustee Dwyer **2nd:** Trustee Gates
Vote: Yes: 4 **No:** 0 **Abstain:** 3 **Absent:** 0

B. Regular Meeting Minutes - January 18, 2023 - Abstain - Trustee Gates, Stanton & Moore

Motion: Carried **1st:** Trustee LaCava **2nd:** Trustee Roe-Ryan
Vote: Yes: 4 **No:** 0 **Abstain:** 3 **Absent:** 0

C. Special Meeting Minutes - February 1, 2023 - Abstain - Trustee Gates & LaCava

Motion: Carried **1st:** Trustee Dwyer **2nd:** Trustee Stanton
Vote: Yes: 5 **No:** 0 **Abstain:** 2 **Absent:** 0

III. District Presentation

- A. Legend of Learning - February 2023 - Bobbi Jo Buck- The board congratulated Ms. Bobbi Jo Buck, Legend of Learning for February 2023. Bobbi Jo is a bus driver, the district messenger, and a cafeteria aide at the Jr/Sr High School. Bobbi Jo is always willing to help her students and go above and beyond with whatever task is thrown her way. Bobbi Jo - thank you for all that you do to support our school community!
- B. [Construction Update](#)- Representatives from Turner Construction updated the board on the status of the current construction project. There was the construction budget and progress update. Updates on the projects at the high school and Grimshaw Library. The Library was turned over to the District on January 30th. The grand opening of the Library is tentatively planned for April or May. Jim Kesler gave an update on projects in the districts. The fire alarm work at ONS is progressing. There is a meeting scheduled tomorrow with building principals. Work is being done with OGS on generators and roof top units. Also work with OGS on parking lot replacement. Capital outlay to start at the high school on Monday during the February break week. Jim thanked the board and Mr. Belfield for their support.
- C. [Big Picture Culinary Presentation](#)- Students from the LaFayette Big Picture School presented to the board on their recent trip to the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, NY. Students have been working in the BP kitchen to prepare all sorts of tasty dishes and learning about the culinary arts. There was a brief pause at 5:41pm for six minutes to taste the tasty dumpling dish the students prepared to share.

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

- D. [Budget Presentation](#) - 2023-2024 Draft Administrative, Capital, Program and BOCES- School Business Official Laurie Holtsbery presented the draft expenditure budget for the 2023-2024 school year. Ms. Holtsbery presented the budget calendar up to May 16th, the date of the Annual Meeting. The Mission, Vision, Core Beliefs and students first are kept in mind when building the budget and setting goals. On February 1st Governor Hucko gave the executive budget proposal which included a 7% increase in our foundation aid and fully funding our expense-based aids that provide support for operations.

Trustee LaCava asked about the availability of more money.

Ms. Holtsbery responded that there are no more opportunities to get more money.

Tax Levy eight step calculation was presented in addition to the Preliminary Budget comprising the Administrative, Capital and Program budget. There is a proposition to purchase two 66-passenger buses for a total cost of \$333,840, with bonds spread over a 5-year period. This purchase over the same five years receives aid at 82%.

Trustee Moore asked about the buses being in their own proposition.

Mr. Belfield responded it has its own proposition due to a bond referendum also being presented for voter approval.

Trustee Moore - Why a bond referendum?

Mr. Belfield - We would have to come up with the full cost of the buses upon delivery if a bond was not used for this purchase. The old buses will go to auction.

Trustee Moore - Are we anticipating more new buses next year?

Ms. Holtsbury - Transportation department has a bus condition schedule. There may be three new buses next year.

Ms. Holtsbury continued the budget presentation on the Program Budget. Overall the Program Budget went up 7.6% and our Benefits Budget went up 10.8% . The Program Budget includes services - General. Ed. Teaching, Special Ed.

Teaching, Instructional Support, and Transportation.

Trustee Roe-Ryan inquired about the purchase of diesel fuel which is bought in bulk and the cost being different at this time.

Ms. Holtsbury - We purchase through BOCES bid. The price increase and adjustments are being made.

Ms. Holtsbury concluded with the Benefit Budget breakdown and an overview of all areas of the budget. Good job to Ms. Holtsbury from all Board members.

1. Transportation Proposition Resolution

a. Roll Call Vote - All were in favor

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

IV. Communications

A. Board Member Updates -

1. BOCES Board Member Nominations - Mr. Reyburn attended Tully's board meeting on Monday night. The Jr. high students had a performance which is a part of Rachel's Challenge.

Trustee Roe-Ryan inquired about Rachel's Challenge.

President Reyburn spoke on Rachel's challenge that it is about care, concern, nurturing one another, positive reinforcement which comes from students.

V. Superintendent Report

- A. Update on Advocacy Work -Superintendent Belfield has been meeting with our state elected officials in CNY to advocate for the full funding of school aid formulas which support 60% of the work that we do. Superintendent Belfield has met with Assemblymembers Lemondes, Hunter, Magnarelli, Benedito, and Senators Griffo, Mayer, Mannion, and May. Mr. Belfield spoke to legislators about staff and student safety and wellbeing, mental health support, capital outlay restrictions, a set amount of building aid mechanism for the Onondaga Nation School, money to provide revenue and flexibility in reserves to school communities based on local priorities and needs. Superintendent Belfield expressed his gratitude towards state officials for the support and recognition of the need to properly fund public schools and address the capital needs at the Onondaga Nation School. Governor Hochul's budget proposal included

\$17.3M over two budget cycles to address the facility needs at the Onondaga Nation School. There is a tentative meeting with Senator Webb coming up later in February or March and hopefully other Assemblymembers. Mr. Belfield thanked Mr. Moore and Ms. Roe-Ryan for presenting at Careers Day at the end of January. Thanks to Ms. Cool for organizing this event.

- B. Community Budget Meeting- Superintendent Belfield thanked School Business Official Laurie Holtsbery for hosting our annual Community Budget Meeting. One community member participated and inquired regarding state support for the capital needs of the Onondaga Nation School and support for Indigenous students. Thank you to the community members who participated in the budget discussion and we look forward to community input on the development of our 2023-2024 budget at board meetings during the month of March.
- C. DRAFT 2023-2024 School Calendar- Superintendent Belfield distributed a draft 2023-2024 school calendar. The district is in the final stages of developing the calendar and will have it available for board action at an upcoming board meeting. Thanks to Susan Bang and colleagues at BOCES. Mr. Belfield mentioned events on the calendar. Breaks are set by a region by our BOCES committee.
- D. Zero Emission Vehicle Presentation- The law was passed that districts have to purchase their first electric bus by 2027 and 0 emission by 2035. We are working on having the proper spaces to maintain these vehicles, and electrical supplies. We are asking officials for no diesel fuel on buses. Not sure electrical buses are the answer. No rush at the moment due to cost and unsurety.
- E. Sinkhole GS Elementary and Upcoming Repair Reserve Hearing
 1. SinkHole Repair @ Grimshaw by the leach field - the metal cap eroded. The area has been fenced off. Currently working with civil engineers and architects for repair.
 2. New Scoreboards - The high school gymnasium scoreboard has been failing. Spare parts for repair were found on ebay. We are looking potentially to repair these scoreboards at the high school to something more modern.
 3. New School Sign - High School sign out front - the system is old and antiquated and is no longer updated by the company. Looking into the cost to replace.
 4. Transfer to Capital to Fund Future Capital Project - The repair reserve has a lot of funding. We are looking to move some of that money into the capital project fund for future capital projects.
 5. Grimshaw Cafeteria Sound System and A/V display - The system is 20 - 30 years old and needs replacement.
- F. Congratulations Christian DeJoseph - Christian hit 1000 career points for his high school career at OCS in the last two seconds of the game. .
- G. Congratulations to our athletes who have entered sectional play - Aiden Moltion (Section 3 wrestler- won 2 and lost 2), Tanner Clemens (alternate for wrestling). Basketball teams - boys play 5:30 PM on Friday at Jordan Elbridge and Girls Varsity on Thursday 6:00 PM vs Tully at LaFayette HS. Jamison Bucktooth - Division I All League Team Ice Hockey - congratulations to Jamison. He also hit a benchmark of goals. He came back from an injury and had a great season. Good luck to the athletes and coaches.

VI. Policy Discussion

A. LaFayette Board of Education Policy Review

1. Second Reading with a motion to waive the third reading for Policy 5410, 5411, 7133

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

2. First reading for Policy 3110, 3111, 3120, 3140, 3150, 7132

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

VII. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Board Action Items

1. CSE, CPSE, 504 Recommendations
2. Budget Transfers - January 2023
3. Treasurer's Report - January 2023
4. Transportation Proposition Resolution
5. 2023 Grimshaw Playground Project SEQRA Resolution
6. Capital Outlay 2023-2024 SEQRA Resolution
7. B&C CO-GC-008 GE AHU-1, Girls Locker Room
8. B&C CO-GC-009 HS Ceiling CREDIT, HoE Wall, Steel Mods
9. B&C CO-GC-010 GS Library Reinforcements & Stage
10. C&S CO-MC-004 GE Ductwork-Diffuser Conflicts
11. K & J CO-PC004 HS Sewage Pump
12. AIA Agreement for the 2023-2024 Capital Outlay Project
13. Surplus Items

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

B. Approval of Personnel Items

1. Non-Instructional Recommendation
2. Substitute Recommendation

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

VIII. Financials - FYI

- A. Warrants and Claims - January 2023
- B. Financials - January 2023
- C. Cash Flow - January 2023

IX. Calendar Review

A. Upcoming Events

- Early Dismissal for PLCs every Monday - 1:45 GS/ONS; 2:00 HS/BP
 1. February 17th - Early Release Drill
 - GS & ONS 1:45 pm
 - Jr/Sr High & BP 2:00 pm
 2. February 20th - February 24th - Winter Recess
 3. February 27th - March 3rd - Dr. Seuss Week at Grimshaw
 4. March 7th - American Red Cross Blood Drive 8:00-2:00pm in the small/aux gym by appointment (Staff and Students only)
 5. March 10th - High School Musical 7:00 pm
 6. March 11th - High School Musical 7:00 pm
 7. March 13th - Professional Development Day - No School
 8. March 15th - BOE Meeting - The Big Picture Commons 5:30 pm

X. Public Comments

- A. Public Communications to the Board - Evelyn Powless, Clan Mother of the Nation shared her concern of the lack of discipline, absence of the practice of the code of conduct and that it is unsafe for staff and students at the Onondaga Nation School. There are no consequences for students misbehaving and causing class disruptions. Students are not receiving special education services. These concerns are having a negative impact on ONS and are being brought to the board's attention.

Community member Dale Shinneman asked about the average class sizes in the district. And are there volunteer opportunities at the Nation school. Mr. Belfield responded - We try to keep the class size small in LaFayette. The largest at the high school level is 22. The smallest class at Grimshaw this year is ten. At the Nation school, which serves only indigenous students from our community, we have a class size this year of nine. We do have a district wide application. There is a reference check process which takes place and the volunteer works under the supervision of a covered employee to make sure that you are never alone with kids.

Ann Courtwright asked about the \$17.3 mil in the budget for the Nation school and is it definite. Ms. Courtwright also asked about grants allocated to Guidance Counselors. Ms. Holtsbery responded it is all per capita and it's in the Executive Budget. We don't know what's going to happen in the Legislative Budget. Things can change. The grants for Guidance Counselors - positions have been added. Mr. Belfield - We tried to add one Social Worker to each building per available funds. Mr. Belfield explained the use of state, federal and reserves funds and dedication. Ms. Holtsbery - spoke on the CARES money and added job positions in the District.

XI. Proposed Executive Session - Subject to Board Approval

- A. Enter into the Executive Session for the purpose of discussing contractual obligations, personnel, contract negotiation and litigations at 7:06 pm.

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

- B. Reconvene into Open Session at 9:39 pm

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

XII. Adjournment

A. Adjourn the meeting at 9:39 pm

Motion: Carried

1st: Trustee Gates

2nd: Trustee LaCava

Vote: Yes: 7

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 0

Respectfully Submitted,

Paula Hibbert

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