

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

I. Opening

A. Call to Order - The 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, S. Stanton, A. Moore, A. Roe-Ryan, M. LaCava, L. Podsiedlik, Superintendent Jeremy Belfield, School Business Official and Deputy Clerk Laurie Holtsbery.

1. Guests in attendance - Jim Kesler, Randi Edwards, Jess Nguyen, Chris Gray, K. McKinley, Tess Miller, Steve Featherstone, Danielle Smith, Dan Gefell, Betty Lyons, John Gizzi, Susanne Halbritter, Kelly Nolan, Trudy Shenandoah
2. Virtual Guests - Trisha Allen, J. Blossey, Ashley Brown, Aaron Bruckman, Mackenzie Cook, Susan Hart, Ashley Kolbeck, Jennifer McDonald, Meagan Smith

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

C. Opening Remarks - President Reyburn gave the meeting conducts and directions to the facilities.

II. Approval of Minutes -

A. Regular Minutes- [September 13, 2023](#)

Trustee Roe-Ryan was not present at the September 13th meeting.

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

B. Special Meeting - [October 4, 2023](#)

Trustee LaCava and Trustee Stanton were not present at the October 4th meeting.

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

III. District Presentation

A. Legend of Learning - Kristen Reardon - Superintendent Belfield shared the following from a staff member who nominated Kristen: In the time that I have been working at Grimshaw, I have personally witnessed Mrs. Reardon go above and beyond for students on many occasions. When I first started we had a student who had a difficult time communicating. Kristen came to my rescue! The relationship Kristen had with that student amazed me. She was able to figure out exactly what was wrong! Kristen then made me a laminated chart to assist the child with communicating.

On another occasion, Kristen assisted a student who was new to the district and the student was struggling to adjust to a new school. Mrs. Reardon never gave up on this student and developed an amazing relationship to the point that this student now enjoys school. I have watched this student's attitude towards school change tremendously and I feel this is mostly because of her relationship with Mrs. Reardon. The amount of care Mrs. Reardon has for her students will amaze anyone. She is always in a great mood and always willing to help. Mrs. Reardon is a special lady who goes out of her way for her students, Grimshaw is very lucky to have her. Superintendent Belfield thanked Ms. Reardon for her continued commitment to excellence.

- B. School Board Recognition - Trustees of the Board were recognized. Mementos from students of all buildings were presented to the Board members. Mr. Gizzi, Interim Principal at the Onondaga Nation School, thanked the Board members for all their hard work. Next week is officially School Board Appreciation week. Mr. Belfield thanked the Board members for their service to the community and the students.
- C. [Construction Update](#) - Jessica Nguyen of Turner gave the construction update. Jim Kesler gave an update on the projects at the Onondaga Nation School. Things are moving forward in a positive direction.

IV. Policy Discussion

A. LaFayette Board of Education Policy Review

- 1. Second Reading for Policy 5310, 5320, 5321, 5322, 5323

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

- 2. First Reading for Policy 7511, 5410, 5411, 5412, 5413

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

V. Superintendent Report

- A. Superintendent Belfield shared details of his visit to Five Peaks Animation which is located in Armory Square. He met the owner Monte Young, and Dean Lion who works in Five Peaks with post production animation. Mr. Belfield met with Dr. Elizabeth Rule, the Deputy Secretary for First Nations. Dr. Rule advocates for educational issues. Mr. Belfield attended the New York State Council of School Superintendents fall leadership conference. He shared a few details of the conference and of the advocates he met. Mr. Belfield thanked the Board for the opportunity to connect with colleagues across the state and for his professional learning. Superintendent Belfield met with the STEAM school advisory committee. The STEAM building will go under construction to house the students. 60% of the student population will come from the Syracuse City school and 40% will come from school districts throughout Central New York. Dr. Jody Manning is the consultant hired by Syracuse City to get the school up and running. Dr. Manning will be at the November 15th Board meeting for a STEAM school presentation. Mr. Belfield gave mention of a few past

school events and spoke about the updates to the district website based on Trustee Moore's feedback.

VI. Communications

- A. Board Member Updates - Trustee Moore, Trustee Roe-Ryan and Trustee Gates gave positive feedback on the Big Picture school. Trustee Reyburn shared information from BOCES - the programs that are now being held at BOCES and about the new Lunar holiday for schools.

VII. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Board Action Items
 - 1. CSE, CPSE, 504 Recommendations
 - 2. PEACE - Services to Preschoolers with Disabilities
 - 3. Budget Transfers 2023 - September
 - 4. Corrective Action Plan-Financial Statements 2022-2023
 - 5. Combining Contract
 - 6. OCC Advantage MOU
 - ~~7. Resolution - Altria Settlement~~
 - ~~8. Social Media Mass Tort~~

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

There has been a motion to remove items 7 and 8 from this area of the consent agenda vote on these items individually as a roll call vote.

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

7. Resolution - Altria Settlement

Motion: Carried **1st:** Trustee LaCava **2nd:** Trustee Roe Ryan

- President Reyburn - Yes
- Trustee Gates - Yes
- Trustee Ryan - Yes
- Trustee Stanton - Yes
- Trustee Moore - Present
- Trustee Podsiedlik - Yes
- Trustee LaCava - Yes

8. Social Media Mass Tort - To be discussed further - Tabled until the November 15th meeting.

Motion: Carried **1st:** Trustee LaCava **2nd:** Trustee Stanton

Trustee Moore was not in favor and shared his reasons. Item number eight (8) will be tabled to be discussed and revisited at the November 15th meeting.

Vote: Yes: 7 **No:** 0 **Abstain:** 0 **Absent:** 0

B. Approval of Personnel Items

1. Resignation
2. Substitute Recommendation
3. 2023-2024 Food Service Salary and Hours
4. 2023-2024 School Bus Driver Hours and Rates

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

VIII. Calendar Review

A. [Upcoming Events](#)

IX. Public Comments

- A. Public Communications to the Board - Randi Edwards responded, on behalf of the Onondaga Nation ancestors, to a recent incident in the District which involved a History Teacher's response to a student and District's response to the incident. Edwards spoke on what needs to be done to move forward with positive results. A member of the audience had a question on the District Level SAVES plan. President Reyburn responded. There was another question about student pick-up by a surrogate. Mr. Belfield answered. Betty Lyons, parent of a previous and present student at the Nation School, addressed the Board on the recent incident involving the History Teacher's hurtful, oppressive response to a 13 year old student. Ms. Lyons told the history of how the spirits of her ancestors were broken and destroyed, children not making it home from boarding schools and the effects of the past being still present in the community. Ms. Lyons would like assurance that the indigenous students' concerns will be heard and taken seriously. Ms. Lyons made training recommendations for staff and students of the Districts. A member of the audience shared her father's experience in boarding school, and her experience of children in grade school being abused for not reading correctly. This current incident brought back painful, hurtful, belittling memories. The audience member ended with the hope for peace. Kelly Edwards, grandmother of a LaFayette student, spoke on the current incident and hopes someone is listening. Susanne Halbritter spoke and offered sage for cleansing. Trudy Shenandoah spoke on starting the healing process. She mentioned the generations that have come through the District and the injustice that occurred but the protocol was never given on how it should be addressed. There is currently a form being used as protocol for investigation. Trudy would like, for the sake of the children past and present, to make this day the first day of unity to go forward in a peaceful way to find wisdom and knowledge, and understand those who survived boarding schools. Dan Gefell, who lives in Tully, a member of the Syracuse Peace Council, a member of Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation, and a facilitator for blanket exercise shared that the surrounding communities are horrified about this incident and people are watching what's happening. He hopes whatever happens, it will lead to healing and for all a better place. Sarah Patterson spoke on mandatory training of all staff and hope good comes of this. The audience wanted to know the

timeline for making a decision and feel that there is nothing moving for a resolution to the problem. President Reyburn agreed that all, regardless of our heritage, are in the process of failing and it is only when we come to realize it, is when we can work towards something better together. The audience would like to know what will happen when the student returns to class and if the teacher will be returning to teach. A member of the audience commented that if the Holocaust could be taught in school, the history of Indigenous people can also be taught. It was suggested to invite Historians who are Survivors of the Mohawk Boarding School to come in and educate the staff in LaFayette school district. Mr. Belfield requested the contact information. The audience thanked the Board for listening.

X. Proposed Executive Session - Subject to Board Approval

- A. Enter into the Executive Session for the purpose of discussing employment history, litigation case number 4862122021 at 6:51 pm.

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

- B. Reconvene into Open Session at 8:49 pm

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

A motion was made by Trustee Podsiedlik Move that the board recognizes the importance of cultural competence for Lafayette students and staff to be in good mind, and to move forward with training opportunities.

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

XI. Adjournment

- A. Adjourn the meeting at 8:49 pm

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurie Holtsbery

Laurie Holtsbery
Deputy District Clerk