

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  
October 12, 2022

I. Opening

- A. Call to Order - the regular Board of Education meeting for the Lafayette Central School district was called to order at 5:32 pm by President Reyburn. In attendance were Trustee J. Gates, C. Dwyer, S. Stanton, A. Moore, M. LaCava, Superintendent Jeremy Belfield, School Business Official and Deputy Clerk Laurie Holtsbery. Trustee Roe-Ryan joined virtually.
1. Guests in attendance - Wendy Horner, Amanda Reppi, Robert Pontbriand, Jessica Nguyen, Jim Kesler, Roxanne Miller, Donna Roskopf, Robert Roskopf, Tom Zuber, Christopher Gray
  2. Virtual Guests - Ashley Kolbeck, James McKenna
- B. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Reyburn at 5:32 pm
- C. Opening Remarks - President went over Robert's Rules and conducts expected at the meeting.

II. Approval of Minutes -

- A. Regular Minutes September 14, 2022 -

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

- B. Special Meeting Minutes September 28, 2022 -

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

III. District Presentation

- A. [Legend of Learning - Amanda Reppi](#) - The board congratulated Ms. Amanda Reppi, Legend of Learning for October 2022. Ms. Reppi is an art teacher at Grimshaw Elementary. The staff member that nominated Amanda shared the following - "Amanda has an amazing passion for what she does, both for the art and for the students. She is always willing to help staff members make projects in the classroom possible and support the curriculum through art. Students love to visit with her because she makes them feel special and important. She always wants the best for all students. She truly cares about their well being. She recently helped me to identify students who would benefit from receiving art supplies from the Backpack Buddies program. She is also involved in Paige's Butterfly Run as well as the Corporate Challenge and helps to organize the participation of other staff members. She is an amazing artist, wonderful teacher, and great colleague. It is an honor to be able to work with her." Congratulations Amanda! Thank you for your commitment to excellence!

- B. [External audit Report - 2021-2022](#) - Representative Thomas Zuber from Mengel, Mengel, Metzger, Barr & Co. presented the external audit report of the 2021-2022 school year. Mr. Belfield introduced Thomas Zuber, Wendy Horner, the District Treasurer, appointed in August 2022 and Roxanne Miller, retired Business Official from Jordan Elbridge, and previous District Treasurer of Homer City School District. Mr. Zuber continued with the 2021-2022 External Audit Report, beginning with the Executive Summary and the key financial information and factors that impact the school district. He gave a snapshot of the different General Funds which is the main operating fund combined on the financial statement. Mr. Belfield thanked Tom Zuber for presenting the External Audit Report and thanked the team for all their efforts in preparing for the audit.

President Reyburn questioned the \$1.17 million dollars on the General Fund Revenue Summary. Mr. Zuber responded that if you don't spend it you don't get it from the state. Trustee Dwyer asked about an expiration date on the stimulus funds. Mr. Zuber responded that the stimulus funds allows you to spend dollars based on your plan and the plan can extend to 2024. When the dollars are used up they are gone.

1. Resolution to Accept External Audit Report and Corrective Action Plans for 2021-2022

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

- C. [Public Hearing](#) - Video Conferencing Board of Education Meetings- Superintendent Belfield conducted a public hearing relative to recent changes to Public Officers Law allowing for the use of video conferencing for board meetings. There has been a change in Public Officers Law Section 103-a and remains in effective valid from June 29, 2022 until July 1, 2024
- D. School Board Recognition- Superintendent Belfield thanked the students and staff for recognizing the service of our school board members during school board appreciation week. Students and staff created mementos to show their appreciation for the servant leadership of our school board. Our board members put in countless hours of volunteer service and make important decisions to help make sure that our students have access to so many great opportunities at LaFayette. Superintendent Belfield thanked the board for their support and for all that they do to make sure that our students and staff are safe, well resourced, and focused on achieving our goals.

- E. [Construction Update](#)- Representatives from Turner Construction updated the board on the current status of the construction project. Representatives Robert Pontbriant and Jessica Nguyen gave the September update. Christopher Gray of Turner Construction was also present. Mr. Pontbriant gave an update on the carpet at the high school, the tree mockup at the Grimshaw library and the high school hall of excellence. Ms. Nguyen gave the budget update. Mr. Belfield discussed the gym door at Grimshaw, the issue with the high school staircase, the concrete out front at Big Picture and the drainage at parent drop-off, and also the parking lot that is beyond its useful life which are all seen as liabilities to the insurance company. The insurance company does an annual walkthrough and has also provided a copy of the building condition survey which dates back to 2015 and things have changed since then. These changes will be documented in the building condition survey coming out next month. Mr. Belfield recommended to the Board to keep the gym door at Grimshaw and use the credit to address the safety items. The gym door at Grimshaw recently received repairs and will be good for another couple of years. This change to the project will be in the form of a change order. Continuing with the update - Robert reported that there is a delay in Daikin HVAC unit 8 & 9 for the Grimshaw library - pushed back to January of 2023 due to the shortage of ECM motors. Units cannot be shipped without the motors. There was an update on the kitchen at Grimshaw and on the sheetrock work in the Grimshaw library; the tiles are in place for the restroom and the drinking fountain. The landscape architect will be out in a couple days to compile a punch list for the contractors. The high school hall of excellence - interior finishes are complete, installation of bench cushions is next and the library carpet replacement is complete. The auxiliary gym room inspection was on September 28th and the general contractor is just completing the batting cage. The Grimshaw roof top unit - shipping in January. The Hall of Excellence unit is scheduled to arrive about Christmas time.

President Reyburn asked about the sidewalk at Big Picture. Mr. Pontbriant responded - change of vendor was necessary.

Jim Kesler, Clerk of the Works, gave an update on the Capital Outlay Lighting Project at the High School - Currently finalizing all contracts and insurance requirements with the contractors - Essential Constructs. They will begin submitting material to the architects and engineers. It's estimated the end of November or the beginning of December for a possible start. The Onondaga Nation School Capital Improvements are moving in a positive direction. The fire alarm project - there have been construction meetings and are ready to go. The hope is to get all the final submittals into State with the hope of beginning November 1st. Mr. Kesler gave an update on the Security Project which involves rebidding. No time frame given from the State for rebidding but the project is still in the works. There was a meeting on September 29th with Principle Gonyea and a team from OGS. HVAC replacement and back-up generators and the operating fuel were discussed. OGS requested utilities information - the information was sent to OCS. There will be a meeting on October 19th. The OCS team of engineers would like to do a study on the parking lot. The plan is to redo both parking lots.

Trustee Moore asked about the entire building being backed-up with one generator. Jim responded - it will be. The building does not have excessive electric consumption.

Mr. Kesler gave an update on the Capital call requests, submitted yearly. All positive feedback on the Capital call request. All last year's submittals were approved. Mr. Kesler applauds Superintendent Belfield for all his efforts. Mr. Belfield spoke on the project at ONS, Commissioner Rosa visiting, and the process to the successful approvals. Mr. Belfield thanked the construction team and thanked Mr. Kessler for keeping on top of the States with these projects.

IV. Communications

A. Board Member Updates - Trustee Reyburn shared a bit about BOCES Retreat.

V. Policy Discussion

1. Second reading with the motion to waive the third reading for Policy 7540

President Reyburn suggested a name change of the policy from "Suicide" to "Suicide Prevention".

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

Trustee Dwyer suggested modifying the title in this second reading and taking it to a third reading. Trustee LaCava made a motion to change the title of Policy 7540 to "Suicide Prevention". The Policy will go before the board for a third reading as amended.

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

2. First reading for Policy 1510, 1520, 1530, 1540, and 1610

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

VI. Superintendent Report

A. Superintendent Belfield attended the Fall Leadership Summit for the New York State Council of School Superintendents. The fall conference also includes meetings for the state and federal legislative committee. During the state legislative meeting, representatives discussed strategies for approaching issues such as state funding, zero emission school vehicle mandates, and funding for student meal programs. The federal legislative committee discussed topics such as the role of the federal government in creating equitable learning opportunities for all students, response to the pandemic, ensuring an appropriate federal/state/local balance, supports for school personnel/students/families, strengthening school district operations (specifically related to the school bus driver shortage), and support for enhancing district technology infrastructure and student data privacy. Great way to network.

- B. Dwagaadonk Writing Project with Syracuse University - Superintendent Belfield met with representatives from Syracuse University who will be working with LaFayette students to increase interest in writing projects with our Indigenous students. The project will include author visits, support from SU professors and students, and opportunities for Indigenous students to explore careers in writing. Mr. Belfield thanked SU and Keely Calfrope for reaching out with the opportunity.
- C. Superintendent Belfield thanked New York State Education Department Commissioner Betty Rosa and Regent Hakanson for visiting the Onondaga Nation School on September 28, 2022. The visit involved stops in fifth grade and pre-k classrooms, a meeting with Onondaga Nation leaders and school officials, and support from New York State to support certifications for Indigenous cultures, and including Indigenous perspectives in curricula. Superintendent Belfield and Onondaga Nation leaders also thanked Commissioner Rosa for supporting the improvement of the Onondaga Nation school facility. Mr. Belfield thanked everyone for their support.
- D. Superintendent Belfield thanked Trustees Reyburn and Roe-Ryan for attending the Big Picture Senior Thesis project presentations. Students selected ambitious projects such as a new basketball court at Stafford Park, a food truck event, along with other amazing projects. Thank you to our students and panel members for contributing ideas that will impact our school community in a positive way.
- E. Grimshaw Walk A Thon - Superintendent Belfield thanked the Grimshaw students and GAPs for hosting our annual Walk A Thon. The Walk A Thon was held on Wednesday October 5th. Students are raising money for the purchase of a climbing wall for the gymnasium. The school received a \$500 donation from McNerney Chevrolet. Thank you to all who donated and participated! The total for the walk-a-thon is not yet in.
- F. Innovate to Educate - Thanks to Dr. Jody Manning who highlighted Leonard Oppesiano and Olivia Virnoche on WCNY radio - Innovate to Educate.
- G. Playground Donation from Mrs. Oliver - Mrs. Oliver received a stabilization grant and donated \$25,000 to build a playground specifically for pre-kindergarten children at Grimshaw; Plan and location to be determined. Mr. Belfield thanked Ms. Oliver.
- H. LaFayette Apple Festival - Superintendent Belfield flipped burgers at the Apple Festival with Jerry Kelly. Other staff and student athletes attended. Mr. Belfield was thankful for the opportunity to be a part of the event.

VII. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Board Action Items

1. Resolution - Video Conferencing Board of Education Meetings
2. CSE, CPSE, and 504 Recommendations
3. Budget Transfers 2022 - June, July, August
4. Treasurer's Report 2022 - July, August
5. Reserve Balance at June 30, 2022
6. Change Order - CO-PC-002, CO-PC-003, CO-PC-001, CO-MC-002 GE Mechanical Changes 1
7. Agreement with Ashley McGraw for Discovered Buildings
8. PEACE Agreement - Services to Preschoolers with Disability
9. Donation to the Onondaga Nation School
10. Donation to C. Grant Grimshaw Playground
  - a. Resolution to Accept a Donation to C. Grant Grimshaw Playground
11. MOA School Bus Attendant Recruitment

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

B. Approval of Personnel Items

1. Resignation
2. Substitute Appointment
3. Annual Appointment
4. Mentor Recommendation - Paula Kopp
5. Coach Appointment Correction

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

6. 2022-2023 Food Service Salary and Hours
7. 2022-2023 School Bus Driver Hours and Rate

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

Trustee Dwyer asked if all positions were filled. Mr. Belfield - We are in the process of recruiting for a Driver/Mechanic and soon for a replacement in the cafeteria.

VIII. Board Non-Action Items

- A. Strategic Plan Update- EL Education - 2nd year; DBT Steps A during flex period. Mr. Belfield spoke on EL Education in its second year and also on DBT Steps A during the Flex period. Teachers are commenting on how quickly students are moving from one grade level to another with the implementation of EL Education. They know the routine and know what to expect. Trustee Reyburn asked if the flex period is built into a time where a student has a need. Mr. Ryan, HS Principal, explained the structure of flex period, the incentives and availability of teachers. It's a working progress. Credit to the Teachers.

- IX. Financials - FYI
  - A. Warrants and Claims 2022 - June, July, August
  - B. Financials 2022 - June, July, August
  - C. Cash Flow 2022 - June, July, August
  - D. 2022-2023 Tax Levy Limit Calculation

Laurie Holtsbery, School Business Official, gave the financial update. Taxes were collected - Currently trying to get caught up with the financials. Ms. Holtsbery explained the tax cap and the tax rate.

- X. Calendar Review
  - A. Upcoming Events

- Early Dismissal for PLCs every Monday - 1:45 GS/ONS; 2:00 HS/BP
  1. October 15th - Homecoming Varsity Football Game vs. Lowville 12:00pm  
- Homecoming Dance 6:45 pm - 10:15pm in the Gym
  2. October 21st - End of Jr. Sr. High Marking Period 1
  3. October 26th - Special Board Meeting at the District Office t 4:30 pm
  4. October 31st - Halloween Parade at Grimshaw 9:00 am
  5. November 3rd - School Bus Drill
  6. November 5th - SAT Exam
  7. November 8th - Superintendent's Conference Day - No School for Students
  8. November 9th - National Honor Society Induction Grade 11 & 12 at 7:00 pm
  9. November 11th - Veterans' Day - No School  
- ONS Observes Canandaigua Treaty Day
  10. November 15th - American Red Cross Blood Drive  
- Jr. Sr. High Picture Retake Day
  11. November 16th - BOE Meeting at the Big Picture Commons 5:30 pm

- XI. Public Comments

- A. Public Communications to the Board - Principal Gonyea thanked the Board for all they do.

- XII. Proposed Executive Session - Subject to Board Approval

- A. Enter into the Executive Session for the purpose of discussing litigation, student matters and employee matters at 7:07 pm.

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

- B. Reconvene into Open Session at 8:44 pm

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

XIII. Adjournment

A. Adjourn the meeting at 8:44 pm

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

*Paula Hibbert*

Respectfully Submitted,  
Paula Hibbert