

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
November 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 5:30 pm by President Reyburn. In attendance were Trustee J. Gates, C. Dwyer, S. Stanton, A. Roe-Ryan, A. Moore, M. LaCava and Superintendent Jeremy Belfield.

1. Guests in attendance - Jennifer Blossey, Simone Gonyea, Winonah McCoy, Megan Zehner, James Kesler, James McKenna, Robert Pontbriand, Jessica Nguyen, Susan Osborn, Kelly Kubeja, Chad Putney, Chris Gray, Gregg Shinneman, Dale Shinneman

2. Virtual Guests - Karen Ocque, Ashley Kolbeck, Sean Zehner, JoAnn McCoy and Pat McCoy

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

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

II. Approval of Minutes -

A. Regular Minutes [October 12, 2022](#)

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

B. Special Minutes [October 26, 2022](#) -

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

III. District Presentation

A. [Legend of Learning - Winonah McCoy](#)- The board congratulated Ms. Winonah McCoy, Instructional Specialist at the Onondaga Nation School, as the Legend of Learning for November 2022. Winonah was recognized by her fellow staff members for her exceptional support of teachers and students during English Language Arts instruction. Congratulations Winonah!

- B. [The Spanish Club - Student Trip Abroad](#) - Plan- Senora Kubeja and Senor Putney presented a proposal for a trip by the Spanish Club to Puerto Rico. The club would like to travel in April 2024 and would like to start raising funds to help offset the cost of the trip. The trip will be based in San Juan and traveling to most of the Island. The club will travel with the company EF - Education First, traveling by bus from 8:00 am till 10:00 pm. Some of the highlights of the trip are cooking classes, salsa dancing lessons, and a lot of opportunities for students to interface with locals.

Trustee Reyburn mentioned the struggle the island is having due to hurricanes.

Senor Putney responded that the itinerary is subject to change based on circumstances as such.

Senora Kubeja responded that the destination may change if next year has a bad hurricane season.

Trustee Dwyer inquired about the types of fundraiser.

Senora Kubeja shared that the fundraiser is the biggest focus. The club participated in the AppleFest with the Knapp family. Cookie kits were sold and generated double the funds compared to last year. Other possibilities are a food truck in the spring, Krispy Kreme donut sale, a run, a popcorn sale and the kids version of a go fund me page - instead of gifts, a contribution is made to the trip. A few more ideas are in the plan. Fundraising and fund distribution will be tracked for each student on a spreadsheet. Each student will receive their raised portion. The plan is to have 15 students participate in the trip to Puerto Rico.

Trustee Moore asked if other schools will be traveling with LaFayette students.

Senor Putney - It may be with students from another area.

Superintendent Belfield shared his knowledge of EF and addressed the Board with the purpose of the presentation.

- C. [Construction Update](#)- Representatives from Turner Construction and Jim Kesler, Clerk of the Works for LaFayette, updated the board on the status of the current construction project. The construction team has issued punch lists for several spaces completed during the summer/fall. The library at Grimshaw is still undergoing renovations and we are hopeful to occupy the space in early January pending receipt of an air handling unit. Ms. Nguyen gave the budget update on the project.

Mr. Kesler updated the board on the status of the capital outlay project for the current year. Mr. Kesler has been working with the architects and engineers on the building condition survey. There is an upcoming meeting with the health and safety committee and the final report will be sent to SED. Pending board approval of the contract with Essential Constructs, the project will focus on continuing to upgrade the high school to LED lights. Mr. Kesler recommends the entire building be converted for the next capital outlay project. Mr. Kesler also updated the board on work completed by New York State at the Onondaga Nation School. The state is currently working on the replacement of the fire alarm system. The work is going well. The state has not yet rebid the security project, but the district has been informed that this project will be rebid soon. The state has also begun the design process for upgrading the classroom HVAC system which will include air conditioning for the school. The state is also working on the design for making improvements to the building parking lot. There was a site visit. Mr. Kesler met with the OGS representatives which included a site contractor.

- D. [Fall Athletics Update](#) - James McKenna, Athletic Director for LaFayette Central School District, provided the board with an overview of student athlete participation for the Fall 2022 season. Mr. McKenna gave stats for all fall sports. The board thanked the student athletes, coaches, and Athletic Director, James McKenna for a great season. Mr. McKenna thanked Ron Cooper and the transportation department.

Trustee Dwyer asked about the football team possibly going to OCS next year.

Mr. McKenna responded that there are talks about it and extended with his goal for the sport.

- E. [Strategic Plan Update - EL Education](#)- Instructional Specialist Megan Zehner and Winonah McCoy provided the board with an update on the district's second year of implementing new ELA learning materials from EL Education. EL is used across the State along with Kits from BOES. Mr. Belfield is proud of the teachers, the kids and the work they are doing.

Trustee Stanton asked about benchmark testing and students who are not keeping up with the rest of the class.

Mrs. Zehner responded that data is reviewed and if it shows that the student is not advancing he or she needs to stay in that micro phase a bit longer and the group and instructions are adjusted for the extended time. If the student continues to not advance, AIS is next.

- F. [EVERFI Empowered Seal Award](#)- Superintendent Belfield provided an overview of a recent award from EverFi, which provides educators with award-winning lessons to help engage students with real-world skills. LaFayette educators have used this resource for stock market simulations, social emotional learning, career exploration, financial literacy, and STEM education. The EverFi Empowered Seal Scholarship contest will provide two students with a \$1,000 scholarship and eight students with a \$500 scholarship pending results of scholarship contests held in the fall and spring.

IV. Communications

- A. Board Member Updates - Trustee Roe spoke on seeing the students preparing for the National Honor Society Induction. Trustee Reyburn spoke about the Grimshaw halloween parade and topics covered at the BOCES open houses. Superintendent Belfield spoke on the number of CTE students over the years and currently in the district. The Board discussed the programs at BOCES and how to encourage interests in these programs.

V. Policy Discussion

- A. Third Reading for Policy 7540 - Suicide Prevention
Policy accepted as amended.

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

- B. Second Reading with a motion to waive the third reading for Policy 1510, 1520, 1530, 1540, 1610

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

- C. First Reading for Policy 1611, 1620, 1630, 1640, and 1650

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

VI. Superintendent Report

- A. Playground Donation from Mrs. Oliver- Superintendent Belfield updated the board on the planned installation of a new playground at Grimshaw Elementary. Thanks to the generous donation of Ms. Beverly Oliver. Ms. Oliver identified a playground system that would be well received by our pre-k and kindergarten students. The district is working with our architect to make sure that we locate the playground in a proper location and have an approved plan from the New York State Education Department Office of Facilities Planning. The proposal from the site architect is to come. After approval, the funds will be used to order the playground. This will be a community built playground.

- B. Legislative Advocacy Presentations - Superintendent Belfield updated the board on efforts both locally and statewide to engage with elected officials regarding educational issues and funding. Superintendent Belfield will be attending the December session of the New York State Council of School Superintendents State Legislative meeting and sharing with the committee how LaFayette and other schools have been using additional federal and state funds to support students. Locally, LaFayette has used additional federal aid to purchase air purification units, new classroom furniture, professional development, and programs and staffing to address the social, emotional, and mental health needs of our students. LaFayette has used the infusion of additional state funds to revise curriculum, purchase new learning materials, and maintain small class sizes. We will continue to advocate for resources to address the needs of our students and we are grateful for the support of our elected officials. Mr. Belfield will be attending the state wide School Superintendents' meeting December 1st and 2nd.
- C. District Health and Safety Meeting- Superintendent Belfield updated the board on the recent health and safety meeting and thanked Trustee Reyburn for sitting in on the meeting as a Board representative. Mr. Belfield thanked Jim Kesler for continuing to chair this committee. Topics discussed included: classroom air purification unit filter changes, submission of the district and building emergency response plans, fire inspections that happened over the summer months, updates on capital work, annual water testing, annual pesticide notifications, and future meeting dates. The next meeting will take place on December 8, 2022 at 3:30 PM in the District Office where the committee will review and provide feedback on the district building condition survey and five year plan.
- D. November 8th Professional Development Day- Superintendent Belfield updated the board on the November 8th PD day which focused on student and staff safety. Armored One worked with staff from each school building in the morning and staff spent the afternoon debriefing on the training and various safety protocols/procedures. The feedback from staff was positive.
- E. Micron/OCC President's Breakfast- Superintendent Belfield updated the board on recent visits to Onondaga Community College. On October 27th, Superintendent Belfield was invited with other area school leaders to welcome Micron to Central New York. Micron plans to build four major memory chip plants in Clay, which will provide thousands of career opportunities over the next two decades in our area. Micron has a focus on making sure that there is a diverse pool of candidates to draw from. A lot of their heavy donations are to Syracuse City Schools, the STEAM school. OCC plans to offer certificate and degree programs that will assist area residents with securing employment at one of these facilities. LaFayette is fortunate to be an OCC Advantage School which offers a college preparation program and college scholarship for LaFayette graduates who meet certain criteria. OCC also hosted a breakfast to discuss partnerships with local school leaders and discuss how we can work together to support students who are furthering their education.

Micron is working with local schools on CHIP camps which are providing afterschool summer programs embedded in local classrooms to talk about the work that is done.

- F. NYSSBA- Superintendent Belfield attended the recent New York State School Board Association Conference in Syracuse, NY. Sessions included a keynote speaker, Marlee Matlin, award winning actress from the film “Coda” who discussed the challenges of advocating for individuals with disabilities. Sessions included a variety of topics focusing on how school leaders can best meet the needs of their students and school communities.
- G. National Honor Society Induction- On November 9th, Superintendent Belfield attended the National Honor Society Induction Ceremony to welcome new members to the chapter. Congratulations to our 13 new members. Thank you to Ms. Polinsky for serving as our guest speaker and thank you to Advisor Maria Edwards for helping to promote the tenets of scholarship, service, leadership and character.
- H. ONS Art Show - Happening at Betts Library. The kick-off was Tuesday night. Beautiful artworks are on display.
- I. Non Profit of the Year Award - Cortland Chamber of Commerce - Superintendent Belfield and Principal Osborn attended The Cortland Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Dinner on November 10th at Greek Peak. The district joined the Chamber of Commerce about four years ago. The award was for all the member schools that did a spectacular job during COVID meeting the needs of our students.

VII. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Board Action Items
 - 1. CSE, CPSE, and 504 Recommendations
 - 2. Adjusted Corrective Action Plan-Financial Statements 2021-2022
 - 3. Treasurer’s Report - September 2022
 - 4. Budget Transfers - September 2022
 - 5. Budget Development Calendar 2023-2024

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

- 6. AIA Document A105-2017 - AM Project #21094
- 7. AIA Document B102-2017 - Contract with Ashley McGraw for 5 Year Plan/Building Condition Survey
- 8. AIA Contract with Ashley McGraw - MEP Design Costs for GS Cafeteria Project and Sound System
- 9. C&S CS_CO-MC-003 GE AHU-1 Piping Modifications

10. Bette & Cring CO-GC-004 - HS HoE Tile Revisions, Terrazzo Revisions
11. Bette & Cring CO-GC-005 - GE Library Window Seating, Firestopping and Activar Shades
12. Bette & Cring CO-GC-006 for HS Hall of Excellence Plaster Wall and Additional Blocking
13. Bette & Cring CO-GC-007 for Grimshaw Steel Modifications, Custom Edge Banding, GPR Utilities, and Loading Dock Repairs

All change orders above are below \$20,000. Mr. Belfield execution of change orders below \$20,000 were previously approved by the board for the 2022-2023 School year.

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

B. Approval of Personnel Items

1. Leave of Absence
2. Instructional Recommendation
3. Substitute Recommendation
4. Coach Recommendation
5. Salary Increase for Graduate hours for Teachers

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

VIII. Financials - FYI

- A. Warrants and Claims - September 2022
- B. Financials - September 2022
- C. Cash Flow - September 2022

Superintendent Belfield gave the financial report. The business office team, which is mostly a new team, went to the 2022 SBMW Conference in Saratoga for training this week. The team is working on catching up on Financials from the summer months. Tonight's financials are for September. Based on the way bank statements roll in, next month should be October and possibly November. Mr. Belfield gave an update on tax collection in the office and talked about the tax lock-box. Gearing up for the next budget... there is a budget calendar on the agenda. The process involves meetings with building principals, supervisors and department heads. Next year we will host a community meeting in February.

IX. Calendar Review

A. Upcoming Events

- Early Dismissal for PLCs every Monday - 1:45 GS/ONS; 2:00 HS/BP
 1. November 17th - Arthur Elise Broach Visits Grimshaw @ 9:00 am and the High School @ 6:00 pm
 2. November 18th -Half Day - Parent Teachers Conferences GS & ONS 2:00 pm
 3. November 22nd - Harvest Dinner at ONS
 4. November 23rd - 25th - Thanksgiving Recess
 5. ~~December 2nd Grimshaw Musical at the HS 7:00 pm~~ moved to June
 6. December 3rd - SAT Exam
 7. December 7th - Grimshaw Winter Concert
 8. December 9th - End of Jr. Sr. High Marking Period 2
 9. December 13th - Jr. Sr. High Band/Chorus Winter Concert 7:00 pm
 10. December 14th - BOE Meeting at the Big Picture Commons 5:30 pm

X. Public Comments

- A. Public Communications to the Board - Principle Gonyea - ONS May have a Winter Concert on December 15, 2022. Gregg Shinneman, a new community member, thanked the business office for assistance with directions to pay his taxes.

XI. Proposed Executive Session - Subject to Board Approval

- A. Enter into the Executive Session for the purpose of discussing legal matters at 7:10 pm.

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

- B. Reconvene into Open Session at 9:00 pm

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

XII. Adjournment

- A. Adjourn the meeting at 9:00 pm

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Paula Hibbert

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