

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
December 15, 2021

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. LeBlanc, C. Dwyer, J. Gates, Amy Ryan-Roe, Superintendent Jeremy Belfield.
 - 1. Guests in attendance - J. McKenna, R. Cooper, D. Harris, C. Wallis, J. Clemens, M.T.F.....illegible signature
 - 2. Virtual Guests - J. Blossey, W. McCoy
 - B. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Reyburn at 5:30 pm
 - C. Opening Remarks - Mr. Reyburn opened on how to address the Board by stating your name and address the board not the community and due to certain rules and regulations that apply to the Board as public servants there are some items not allowed to be addressed during an open forum or in public or at all. If items of such come up and we don't have the answer, we will get back to you with the answer as soon as we can. Mr. Reyburn called for silence in a moment of gratitude in solidarity with our Onondaga siblings.

II. Approval of Minutes -

- A. Regular Minutes - November 17, 2021 Changes
XII. Public Comments - Edited

III District Presentation

- A. Legend of Learning - Karrie Haumann- The board congratulated Ms. Karrie Haumann, Teaching Assistant at the Onondaga Nation School, as the Legend of Learning for December 2021. Karrie routinely goes above and beyond for our students at ONS each and every day. Karrie develops positive relationships with students and is a team player when it comes to meeting the needs of the school. Congratulations Karrie!
 - B. Non-Instructional supervisors Update
 1. Transportation - Ron Cooper, Transportation/Maintenance Supervisor, gave a recap on the school year. Shortage of drivers was very challenging. With some creativity the job was done. The good news for the department is two new drivers were hired. The bus garage emergency repair is complete and two buses coming in January.

2. Facilities/Ground - Ron Cooper gave an update. He talked about new equipment - the salt truck and mower with attachments. The staff changes in the custodial group are working out well. Cleaning practices are being continued. Currently working on updating the handbook. He also talked about water testing that was done and the results were good. The window shades in classrooms that were falling off doors were all adjusted and air purifiers were installed in classrooms.

Mr. Reyburn asked if it was unusual when the soil around the old lift was being tested and the DEC did not have to come to abate it.

Ron was rather surprised due to the lift being there for a long time.

3. Food Service - Mr. Kennedy will provide an update at the January meeting.

4. Technology- Ms. Sandusky will provide an update at the January meeting.

C. Recognition by the National Association of Bilingual Education - The Board recognized Ms. Sherri Hopper, Onondaga Language Teacher, who has been recognized by the National Association of Bilingual Education. Ms. Hopper, along with her colleagues in the language department, is doing a phenomenal job of helping to promote bilingual education in LaFayette with her indigenous students. Her work has been recognized both locally and statewide, and now nationally. Congratulations to Sheri. Great Job.

IV. Communications

A. Board Member Updates - Trustee LeBlanc commented on the Jr. Sr. High concert. It was enjoyable and it was good to see people together. It was organized so that kids could be socially distanced and be safe. She enjoyed it very much.

V. Superintendent Report

A. Superintendent Belfield congratulated our choral and band students on successful December concerts at Grimshaw Elementary and LaFayette Jr/Sr High School. It was great to see our students on stage and our parents and family members in the audience cheering them on. Mr Belfield thanked Zachary LeBlanc, a LaFayette Alumni at the high school, Rebecca Pethybridge at Grimshaw elementary and our choral director Mr. Czyz and Mrs. Snyder. Last year this time there was a virtual concert so it is good to see things are getting back somewhat to normal.

B. Capital Project Update - Superintendent Belfield updated the board on the 2020 Capital Project. The project is in the final stages of approval by the New York State Education Department Office of Facilities Planning. The architects and construction management staff have the bid documents ready to go as soon as the district receives approval from NYSED. We are planning on a bid opening at the Grimshaw Elementary Cafeteria on January 11, 2021 at 3:30 PM. Bids would be awarded at the January board of education meeting and construction would begin in the spring/summer of 2022 and continue through the summer months of 2023. Superintendent Belfield thanked the board and the community for their continued commitment to making sure that our school facilities are safe, up to date, and addressing the educational programming needs both now and in the future. This state project will have no local tax impact thanks to the Board fiduciary responsibility.

- C. Building Condition Survey - Superintendent Belfield shared that the district is required to complete the building condition survey in 2022. Every five to seven years the NYSED requires school districts to do an assessment of all their critical building elements, structural elements ... critical building systems. Architects will be in our buildings during February break to review critical infrastructure and facility needs of the bus garage, high school and Grimshaw and are working on the capital needs of the Nation school which is a state owned building. The district will also work with a company to review critical technology infrastructure to create a replacement plan. The last condition survey was done in 2015. Once the next project is completed we will have addressed our high and medium priority infrastructure needs in that plan. The district is partnering with CNYRIC and Archi-Technology to survey our technology needs as part of our building condition survey. This information will also be used to update our technology plan.
- SED wrote three Nation schools out of the building condition survey plan and Mr. Belfield thinks that part of that was sadly that they knew they did not adequately fund the facility needs there. We are hopeful that in the next budget cycle the state will allocate the 17 million dollars identified in 2010 and again in 2015 to fix up that facility. So we ask the state for 20 million to address the needs at the Nation schools which haven't been touched in a significant way since the mid 1990s.
- D. Town of LaFayette Water District Discussion- Superintendent Belfield participated in a discussion with the engineering firm hired by the Town of LaFayette, Barton & Loguidice, and Town Supervisor Bill McConnell to discuss the study approved for a potential water district to serve the hamlet of LaFayette. There have been talks at the town level about the needs of the Cardiff valley and the needs along the route 11 corridor here. With the proximity at Grimshaw for example to routes 11, 20 and 81 we actually have a lot of road salt that has penetrated the ground water and impacts the quality and taste of the drinking. It is safe to drink but it is salty. The long term solution the town is researching and studying as a potential for a water district for the route 11 corridor, the Hamlet and then trying to connect to the Cardiff system to help make sure that system is maintained for the residents in the Cardiff valley. One of the potential sites they are looking at for a potential town well which is the most economical based on the engineering studies initially completed and are on their way is looking at an aquaphor. The engineers along with local well drilling companies have identified the high school property as a potential source for a future town well and/or pump station. The water district will most likely require authorization from both the town and likely the members of that water district. The district will continue to work with the town as they move forward with the study. The school attorney will be invited. She is aware of districts that have worked with municipalities to either host or run a water district.
- E. Welcome Promise Zone Specialist- We welcomed a Promise Zone Specialist at Grimshaw Elementary, Ms. Hatch... She is there five days a week working with students in lunch groups to help promote positive social skills and acting as a resource to help address some of the needs that we are seeing from having students sit home for an extended period of time. Ms. Hatch is an employee of CCSI, a county agency that helps support students and families especially during this difficult time.

- F. Letter writing campaign for ONS Capital Funding - We have a letter writing campaign on the way with the neighbors of the Onondaga Nation to address the capital funding needs. In Albany, on December 10th, we got the attention of the Governor's office. They were well aware of our request for the funding needs for the Onondaga Nation School. We had other Superintendents that were helping to advocate for those needs. A special thank you to Mr. Stats from the Hannibal Central School District who actually brought up the topic to the Governor's office. The Governor's office is aware and the Board of Regents is aware they have allocated some of their funding requests to address the capital funding needs of the three Nation schools. We are hopeful that with our letter writing campaign which a link will be sent out to our families to help support those efforts and partner with the neighbors of the Onondaga Nation to help encourage the Governor to do the right thing and make sure the facility at the Onondaga Nation school is safe, adequate, and meeting the educational needs of our students. Also the Legislative Committee for the NYS Council of School Superintendents talked about some of the challenges that schools have faced as we recover from the pandemic. The Governor's office has an interest in wanting to make sure that we are operating safely and they believe that vaccination is the key to keeping our schools open and safe. We are grateful for the vaccine and testing resources.
- G. COVID Updates- Superintendent Belfield updated the board on the current number of COVID cases among students and staff. This school year, the district has reported 136 total COVID cases among students and staff. The majority of these cases occurred as a result of exposures that occurred outside of school due to cases within student or staff member households. The district continues to work with families and the Onondaga County Health Department when cases are reported to complete required contact tracing. Thankfully, we are not seeing evidence of spread within the school environment due to the precautions in place. The district hosted a vaccination clinic at Grimshaw Elementary. 73 students ages 5-11 received the Pfizer vaccine. Therapy dogs from The Go Team Therapy, Crisis and Airport Dogs were present to help support our students during the vaccine clinic...A thank you to Mr. Gary, a LaFayette resident, and the therapy dogs from The Go Team Therapy Crisis and Airport Dogs. The Onondaga Nation School will host a vaccine clinic on December 23, 2021 from 8:30-11:30. Recently the Onondaga County Health Department authorized school districts to use "Test to Stay" for any students placed into quarantine following exposure to positive cases at school. In order for the district to move forward with this, the district must file for a lab license to conduct daily rapid COVID tests at school for students who are placed into quarantine. Students are only released from quarantine for their academic program and are not allowed to participate in sports or extracurricular activities. Mr. Belfield worked with Dr. Nanavati today and filed an LSL- Limited Service Laboratory. The district is waiting on approval for the testing license from the New York State Department of Health and receipt of rapid tests from Onondaga County. The district requested 2,000 rapid tests from the county to implement this program. We anticipate starting this program within the next several weeks pending approval from NYSDOH. We also have to develop a written protocol that the County Health Department approves and the medical director approves. After all approval we will have to work on the logistics with our nurses.

VI. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Board Action items

1. CSE, CPSE, and 504 Recommendations
 2. Budget Transfers - September & October, November 2021
 3. Treasurer's Report - September & October 2021
 4. Change Order Resolution for Capital Project
 5. Deputy District Clerk - Peter Mahunik
 6. McKinney Vento Liaison Appointment
 7. MOA with LTA - correction of Salary Schedule
 8. Surplus Items
 9. Donation

B. Approval of Personnel Items

1. Resignation
 2. Instructional Appointment
 3. Substitute Appointment
 4. Non-Instructional Appointment
 5. Winter Coach Appointment
 6. Annual Appointment
 7. Clerical Appointment

VII. Financials - FYI - Peter Mahunik gave an update - We are coming up on the budget process season. We have already started the process. After the new year we will be bringing forward part of the proposed budget for 22-23. As for where we are with the current budget, our revenues are where they should be, our expenses are where they want to be too. Things are looking positive for the 21-22 year.

- A. Warrants and Claims - September & October 2021
 - B. Financials - September & October 2021
 - C. Cash Flow - September & October 2021

VIII. Calendar Review

A. Upcoming Events

- Early Dismissal for PLCs every Monday - 1:45 GS/ONS; 2:00 HS/BP

1. December 22nd - ONS New Year
 2. December 25th - 31st - Holiday Recess - No School (All Students)
 3. January 17th - Martin Luther King Day - No School (All Students)
 4. January 20th - BOE Meeting @ Big Picture Commons 5:30 p.m.

IX. Public Comments

A. Public Communications to the Board - No Questions or Concerns

X. Proposed Executive Session - Subject to Board Approval

- A. Enter into the Executive Session for the purpose of discussing employment history, current litigations and student discipline at 6:09 pm.

B. Reconvene into Open Session at 8:10 pm

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

XI. Adjournment

- A. Adjourn the meeting at 8:10 pm

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Paula Hibbert