

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
September 22, 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 Reburn. In attendance were Trustee J. LeBlanc, M. Walker, S. Stanton, J. Gates, Amy Ryan-Roe, Superintendent Jeremy Belfield, School Business Manager and Deputy Clerk Cindy Daley. Trustee Dwyer was not present.
 1. Guests in attendance - Simone Gonyea, Jennifer Blossey, Karen Ocque, Mackenzie Cook, Susan Osborn, Maria Edwards, John Nastasi, Maureen Nastasi, Kris Edwards, Kelly Horton
 2. Virtual Guests - Ashley Kolbeck, Katherine Olrich, Matt Priest, Jason P. Ryan
 - B. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Reburn at 5:30 pm
 - C. Opening Remarks - Superintendent Belfield welcomed prospective new hires (pending board approval). President Reburn spoke on how to address the Board and questions to the Board.
 - D. A moment of silence - Tyler Christman, Carthage student
 - E. A moment of Gratitude
- II. Approval of Minutes
 - A. Regular Minutes - August 19, 2021 - No Change
 - B. Special Meeting Minutes - August 26, 2021 - No Change
- III. District Presentation
 - A. [Legend of Learning](#) [Maria Edwards](#) - The board recognized Maria Edwards as the Legend of Learning for September 2021. Maria was nominated by fellow staff members and students for going above and beyond in her classroom. Superintendent Belfield and the board thanked Maria for always putting our students first. Maria is very empathetic, dedicated and hardworking.
 - B. [LCSD 2021-2022 Professional Learning Plan](#) - Superintendent Belfield shared updates from the district's 2021-2022 Professional Learning Plan. The plan addresses how the district provides training for instructional staff and mentoring for new teachers and administrators. Every new teacher is provided with a district mentor. The district also partners with a company called Better Lesson to provide individualized instructional coaching for probationary classroom teachers. The professional learning plan also

outlines all required training for staff, such as training on the emergency response plan, content specific training, and training focus on district initiatives such as the new English Language Arts program EL.

IV. Old Business

- A. Student Safety - Superintendent Belfield updated the board on recently completed school bus drills. During school bus drills, bus drivers review safety belt procedures, how passengers can call the bus garage for help in an emergency where the driver is not able to use the radio, and how to exit the bus safely in the event of a crash. Superintendent Belfield thanked Mr. Cooper, our transportation staff, and our students for doing a great job with the safety drills. Staff members also completed the annual training on our emergency response plan. New this year - staff members also completed a training through ONE Training on how to respond to active shooters. Staff members had the chance to complete an online simulation of the run, hide, fight training that returning staff members may recall from the 2018-2019 school year.

V. Communications

- A. Board Member Updates - President Reyburn - BOCES met last Thursday - Hired about 50 new employees - increase for CTE - Food Service - Home Health - Welding - Diesel Engine

VI. New Business - No new Business

VII. Superintendent Report

- A. Superintendent Belfield thanked the board for their support with providing a safe return to school this year. Our students and staff members are implementing the safety measures, with a few reminders about proper wearing of face coverings from principals and staff members. Currently 91% of our staff members are fully vaccinated and any of the weekly testing for staff members who are not fully vaccinated have tested negative for COVID-19. The district has reported a total of 25 cases (15 students and 10 staff members) of COVID-19. Unfortunately, the surrounding community is seeing a surge in cases related to the contagious delta variant. We wish all of our students and staff who have been diagnosed with COVID a quick recovery. The district has conducted weekly surveillance testing, pool testing, which started on Tuesday September 14th. Thanks to the nurses. While we have a low number of students and staff participating in surveillance testing, we are hoping to increase the number of voluntary participants as the school year progresses. The district also secured air purification units for each classroom and cafeteria through Health Way. The air purification units help to filter out particles as small as the coronavirus and improve the number of air exchanges within the space. Superintendent Belfield thanked School

- Business Manager Cindy Daley and Clerk of the Works Jim Kesler for their efforts to coordinate the installation of the air purification units.
- B. On August 31st, the Onondaga Nation School hosted a press conference to address the capital funding needs for the three nation schools that serve Native American students in New York State: Onondaga Nation School, Tuscarora Nation School, and the St. Regis Mohawk School. All three school buildings are state-owned and are in dire need of renovations and upgrades. Superintendent Belfield thanked Trustees LeBlanc, Reyburn, and Gates for attending the event. Superintendent Belfield also thanked Dr. Stanley Harper and Superintendent Dan Lijanich for assisting with the presentation. The event was attended by New York State Senators Rachel May, and Assembly members Lemondes and Hunter. Superintendent Belfield shared the [letter of support from Assemblymember Lemondes](#).
- C. Superintendent Belfield attended the family orientation at the Onondaga Nation School held on September 8, 2021. Parents and students had the opportunity to review health and safety protocols developed by the Onondaga Nation Council of Chiefs, Clanmothers, and Faithkeepers. During the orientation, families reviewed safety protocols on the bus, daily symptom screening, proper mask wearing, handwashing protocols. Superintendent Belfield thanked ONS staff, Principal Gonyea, and Food Service Director Rob Kennedy and Food Service Helper Substitute Jeanine Greely for their assistance with the orientation.
- D. Bus Driver Shortage- Superintendent Belfield updated the board on the current bus driver shortage facing LaFayette CSD and school districts across the country. LaFayette CSD is currently short two regular route bus drivers. We have two prospective bus drivers in training who will be taking their road test soon. Once these drivers are fully trained, they will be ready to serve as regular route drivers. Our transportation supervisor and one of our maintenance workers have been out driving every day to cover vacant bus routes. Superintendent Belfield thanked retired bus driver Steve Crawford, Mr. Kesler (Clerk of the Works), Grimshaw Principal Jennifer Blossey, and LaFayette Jr/Sr High School Assistant Principal/Athletic Director James McKenna for assisting with transporting students to athletic events or CTE programs. Superintendent Belfield thanked our current bus drivers and mechanics for their continued dedication to our students. Superintendent Belfield thanked our students and families for their patience while we strategize on ways to recruit and retain dedicated transportation professionals. Recently, Governor Kathy Hochul announced [strategies to address the shortage of school bus drivers](#). These statewide recruitment strategies include: removing barriers to recruit traditional and non-traditional Commercial Driver's License holders, expand CDL testing opportunities, and enhance processes to get more drivers into school buses.
- E. ASBO Breakfast with Ryan McMahon- Superintendent Belfield and School Business Manager Cindy Daley attended the Central New York School

Business Officials meeting which featured guest speaker Onondaga County Executive Ryan McMahon. School officials thanked the county executive for his leadership throughout the pandemic along with his continued commitment to economic development in CNY. The County Executive sees strong schools as an economic draw for new businesses to locate in our county. Onondaga County has been supportive throughout the pandemic with an investment in school testing programs and in helping students and families recover from the pandemic with the school based initiatives to provide school based mental health services and promise zone specialists in our schools.

- F. Attendance at Town of LaFayette Board Meeting- Superintendent Belfield attended the Town of LaFayette Board Meeting on Tuesday September 14th. The town board honored Eagle Scout Candidate Scott Heath, who recently restored a cemetery near Big Bend in LaFayette. The town board also approved a study for a potential water district for the hamlet of LaFayette. Grimshaw Elementary would benefit from the installation of a water district. While the water at Grimshaw is safe to drink, the water does have a higher salt content which makes the water unpleasant to drink. The water is also high in minerals and requires a great deal of conditioning to avoid excessive wear on pumps, water heaters, and other equipment.
- G. Virtual/In Person Open House- Superintendent Belfield updated the board on plans for Open House/Curriculum Nights at our schools. Given the recent surge in COVID cases and lack of availability of the COVID vaccine for younger students, the district has decided to hold a virtual curriculum night and open house at Grimshaw Elementary (September 22nd) and the Onondaga Nation School (September 30). The High School will hold an in person open house on October 6th and Big Picture will welcome parent guests for exhibitions and senior thesis projects. The High School is also preparing for Homecoming weekend which is still being planned. Mr. Ryan and Mr. McKenna will be meeting with the student council to plan Homecoming activities in accordance with safety guidelines.
- H. Update on Capital Project Submission - Superintendent Belfield updated the board on the submission of the \$8.6M Capital Project approved by the voters in December 2020. The project plans and construction documents have been submitted to the New York State Education Department. The district anticipates receiving NYSED approval by the first week of November. Pending NYSED approval, the district will advertise bids around November 5th. The district will look to open bids tentatively on December 7th and hope to award bids from prime contractors at the December 15th board meeting. Construction will begin in the spring 2022 and last through the summer of 2023. During the design process, the district met with consultants to discuss the replacement of components of the wastewater system at LaFayette High School. Based on a review of the DEC code book, the current wastewater system, which includes a small sewage treatment plant and open aeration tank, is no longer recommended for schools. The consultant has recommended replacing

- the current system with a traditional septic system to bring the current system in compliance with DEC code for school wastewater systems.
- I. OCM BOCES Energy Performance Contract - They are looking to get some updated equipment in the most cost effective manner to save the district on energy consumption. We have a lot of equipment at BOCES that is old and districts are responsible for the upgrade and maintenance of these facilities. A bid should be out sometime in the near future. The plan is for students to have updated HVAC equipment and save money on these equipment. During the process of doing a request for proposal (RFP) for an energy performance contract (EPC) Johnson's control originally did the study and they are available on state contract. This would be a 15 year term for the cost of the improvements but annual savings to the district would be seen throughout the 15 year term. We look forward to keeping you informed.

VIII. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Board Actions Items
1. CSE, CPSE and 504 Recommendations
 2. 2021 - 2022 STAR Reimbursement Applications
 3. Resolution Authorizing Commencement of E-Cigarette and Vaping Litigation
 4. Board Resolution - Fiber Renewal - 5 year Service Agreement - OCM BOCES
 5. Transportation Contract - OCM BOCES
 6. Surplus Items
- B. Approval of Personnel items
1. Resignation
 2. Leave of Absence
 3. Instructional Appointment
 4. Substitute Appointment
 5. Non-Instructional Appointment
 6. 2021 - 2022 Continuing Substitute List - Instructional
 7. 2021 - 2022 School Bus Driver Hours and Rate

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

IX. Board Non-Action Items

- A. Strategic Plan Update- Implementation of EL - Superintendent Belfield thanked instructional specialists Megan Zehner, Maria Edwards, and Winonah McCoy for creating a website to assist LaFayette educators with implementing our new ELA program - <https://sites.google.com/lafayetteschools.org/elsiteforlcsd/home> . Superintendent Belfield also shared a copy of a letter to families introducing the new ELA program.

X. Calendar Review

A. Upcoming Events

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

1. September 23rd - Grimshaw Virtual Curriculum Night 6 p.m.
- College Visit 12:30 a.m. Niagara University - at the HS
2. September 24th - College Visit 10:15 a.m. SUNY New Paltz - at the HS
September 24th - Wacky Shoe Day at Grimshaw
3. September 27th - **Early Dismissal**
4. October 1st - SPIRIT DAY - Tie Dye Day at Grimshaw
5. October 2nd - SAT Exam
6. October 4th - **Early Dismissal**
7. October 6th - Jyothowehah - Return of the little Cold
8. October 7th - HS Open House 6:30 pm - 8:00 p.m.
9. October 8th - Half Day for all Students
10. October 11th- Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples' Day - No School
GS/HS/BP/ONS
11. October 13th- PSAT Exam 8:00 a.m.
- ONS Picture Day
- BOE Meeting @ Big Picture 5:30 p.m.
12. October 30 - College Visit 10:15 a.m. St. John Fisher

XI. Public Comments - No Public Comments

XII. Proposed Executive Session - Subject to Board Approval

- A. Enter into the Executive Session for the purpose of discussing current litigation at 6:09 pm.

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

Trustee Dwyer entered after the open session break.

- B. Reconvene into Open Session at 8:32 pm

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

XIII. Adjournment

- A. Adjourn the meeting at 8:32 pm

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Paula Hibbert