

LA FAYETTE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
5955 US Route 20
LaFayette, New York 13084
BOARD OF EDUCATION – REGULAR MEETING
August 27, 2015

- I. Opening
- A. Call to Order - The Regular Meeting of the LaFayette Board of Education was held on Thursday, August 27, 2015 at the LaFayette Jr./Sr. High School Library. Vice President Johnson called the meeting to order at approximately 5:40 p.m. Present were: Vice President Mark Johnson, Trustees Scofield, D. Dodge, M. LaCava, M. Whitney; Superintendent Laura Lavine, School Business Official Tiffany Turner, Board Clerk Kasey McHale, Administrators James Chupaila, Jen Blosssey, Diane Ellsworth, Susan Osborn, and Karen Ocque, Others in attendance were James Kesler, Jerry Kelly, James Tyler, Cheryl Polinski, Tom LaRose, Kristine Jarosz, Sean Griffin, Maria Nastasi, Damon Derbyshire, and Tim Miller. Absent were President M. Dodge, and Trustee Keefe.
- B. Pledge of Allegiance - Led by Vice President Johnson
- C. Opening Remarks - Vice President Johnson welcomed back Mike LaCava from knee surgery and wished a Happy Birthday to Diane Ellsworth. He announced there would be an executive session at the end of the meeting.
- II. Executive Session – To be held at the end of the meeting.
- A. Enter into Executive Session
- B. Come out of Executive Session
- III. Approval of Minutes
- A. Regular Minutes – August 13, 2015
- A motion to approve the minutes was made by Trustee Scofield, seconded by Trustee LaCava. There were a few questions regarding the co-curricular to be discussed later and Graduation Date being moved to Friday.
- Vote: Yes – 3 No – 0 Abstain – 2 (Whitney, LaCava) Absent – 2 (M.Dodge, Keefe)
- Motion not carried, tabled for the next Board Meeting.
- IV. District Presentation and Reports
- A. Presentations
1. District Social Media Launch - Kristine Jarosz described how she will start a social media account for the district, showed a current page she is working on for another district (Fayetteville-Manlius), and handed out documents outlining her launch campaign, which will be posted on the District website before the pages go live.
 2. Response to Intervention - Karen Ocque presented information regarding what RTI is, how we use it in LaFayette, our steps to getting the process started and thanking those who have been involved up to this point. Maria Nastasi, a member of the RTI team, commented on her experience so far, including working with other buildings and how she thinks it will truly help our students. Damon Derbyshire

expressed how working with people outside our District has been helpful in not reinventing the wheel, but building and growing to help the students.

B. Oral Communications

1. Capital Project - Sean Griffin, Project Manager, Turner Construction, reported an update on the entire district involving progress made with sidewalks and paving, new office furniture and fixtures and that all life-safety functions will be in place for the start of school. He reported that the gymnasium at Grimshaw Elementary will be completed later in the month through the beginning of October and the High School gymnasium floor will be finished by the end of September. Other items are still being delivered and will be installed as soon as possible. There was a question about security being in place for the start of school. Mr. Griffin said that entrances will have the electric ability to let someone in, but there are some bugs in place so he and the building administrators have been working with Jim Kesler to set a security plan in place until all the bugs are worked out. There was a question about how Physical Education classes will be taught without a completed gymnasium, and Superintendent Lavine stated that a plan was set for the High School to use the weight room and go outside onto the fields, as long as weather permitted until the project was completed. Grimshaw also has a plan in place to use this time by going outside when possible and begin student pre-assessments. When asked if there were major hiccups in this process, Mr. Griffin responded that that was nothing beyond expected materials not arriving on time, fixtures not quite fitting due to unexpected pipework or the finishing of the security systems. When asked about the Big Picture School and the music wing, Mr. Griffin reported that all floors, ceilings, lights and units for air exchange are installed but furniture and clearing out the room will need to start on 8/28/15. Some minor/temporary areas might not be able to be used for the first day of school, but will be finished quickly. Principal Chupaila explained how there is already a plan in place for music classes to utilize the cafeteria and auditorium until the space is completed. Mr. Griffin stated that the overall Project plan was to still be finishing things up once school had started and the Project is not too far behind schedule. Superintendent Lavine thanked Mr. Griffin, Chris Gray, Jim Kesler and all the workers for all they have done and will be doing to see us through to the end.

V. Old Business

A. Co-Curricular Administrative Regulations – Superintendent Lavine asked Principal Chupaila to report on the new Co-Curricular Regulations, and reminded everyone that these are regulations, not Board policy, but administration is seeking Board input. Principal Chupaila mentioned that they made some changes, including new and consolidated information and guidelines. The biggest change is in the carryover from June through the fall sports season from a student's final course average if they went to summer school, since summer school is not complete before fall sports begin. Another notable item is attendance and arriving to school on time, which had previously been listed as 9:30am (after second period begins), and now has been moved to the start of the day, with the exception of a legal excuse. Jerry Kelly said this will be an adjustment for

students, and they are waiting until winter sports season for implementation. Vice President Johnson indicated that he believes this will help students who want to participate even though it will be an adjustment. There can be various reasons for coming in late, legal excuses, especially seniors, but Principal Chupaila will have the final discretion. After discussion about making sure all students and families are clear on when school officially begins to note what time they need to be in attendance, the Board was in favor of these guidelines.

VI. New Business

A. Strategic Plan – The Board was presented a hard copy of the Strategic Plan created during retreat days. Superintendent Lavine would like to present this at opening day ceremony, and requested feedback from Board members. All Board members were satisfied for presentation to staff.

VII. Superintendent Report – (Given after approval of Agenda Items VIII. A and B)

Superintendent Lavine mentioned to the Board that the FML report update is for a date change for Kelly Kubeja at the High School in the approved agenda item, and congratulated Cheryl Polinsky on being appointed the new Grimshaw 0.6 PE teacher. She asked Tom LaRose to say few words about his new co-worker, and he stated he is looking forward to the two of them working together. Superintendent Lavine wanted to address the “drive-by phenomenon” that had been mentioned by Chris Gray of Turner Construction at a meeting, that leads to people thinking things will never be completed. Chris gave his reassurance that it will be done, it always gets done. From the Capital Project meeting, Superintendent Lavine reported that everyone had 3 clear priorities: fire alarms, telephones, access control with safety officer and administrators, and it is assured those will be in place for opening day.

Superintendent Lavine reported that, for those who didn't know, we have moved to Central Registration at the District Office and thanked Kasey McHale for her work in registering our new students and implementing our new registration process, which will grow and change as the year progresses.

All of our bus drivers met yesterday with Ron Cooper, and the Administrators went over and thanked them for their hard work and welcomed them back.

Ms. Lavine, Mr. Kesler and Mrs. Turner participated in a telephone conversation with Sun Edison, which works on solar power in NYS Power Authority, regarding school districts across the state are going on board with solar energy, and Sun Edison discussed opportunities for LaFayette. A proposal has been put together for us, they will be looking at it and will check with school attorney for how it will work and looking at competitive pricing. Administration will be looking at many different aspects before making a proposal to the Board, but wanted to keep them up to date about any developments.

Superintendent Lavine presented a mid-year report for Read 180, which showed that ONS would benefit from more phonemic awareness instruction. A couple weeks ago, a phonemic awareness training for approximately 25 staff members (PK-2nd grade) was held, and many felt it was beneficial. Ms. Lavine also presented a report from last year (which did not necessarily represent the same students) that showed favorable results

from the Scholastic Interventions. All of our schools showed increase (GS-22%, HS-13%, ONS-30%).

VIII. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Board Action Items

1. Approve 504, CPSE, CSE Recommendations
2. June Treasurer Reports 2015
3. Budget Transfer August 27, 2015

A motion to approve the Items was made by Trustee LaCava seconded by Trustee Scofield..

Motion Carried: Yes – 5 No – 0 Absent – (M. Dodge, Keefe)

B. Approval of Personnel Items

1. Approve Appointment - Instructional 2015-2016
2. Approve Appointment – Co-Curricular 2015-2016
3. Approve Substitute Appointment 2015-2016
4. Approve Substitute List 2015-2016
5. Employee Family Medical Leave Request

A motion to approve the Items was made by Trustee LaCava seconded by Trustee Scofield.

Motion Carried: Yes - 5 No - 0 Absent – 2 (M. Dodge, Keefe)

Trustee LaCava requested more detail from end of the year reports, more specifics and more growth for these different groups. Superintendent Lavine suggested rotating over the future Board Meetings different groups presenting updates.

IX. Board Non-Action Items

- X. Communications - Trustee Whitney asked about the previous discussion regarding graduation and everyone wearing the same color robes for those that wear gowns during the ceremony. Superintendent Lavine said that in an effort to show sensitivity to our LGBT students, we would move the tradition of girls wearing white and boys wearing green to a uniform color for those students who wear the graduation robes. To update from previous discussion regarding moving graduation to Friday, it is looked at favorably.

XI. Calendar Review

- A. Upcoming Events – Staff Development Day 9/1; First day for students 9/2; No School on 9/4 or 9/7; School Resumes 9/8; The next Board Meeting is 9/10; GAPS Meeting 9/14, Grimshaw Curriculum Night 9/17, ONS Picture Day 9/18, Jr/Sr High Parent Group Meeting 9/22, ONS Welcome Back Dinner and Open House 9/22, Half Day for Students 9/23, Board of Education Meeting 9/24 and Jr/Sr High Picture Day 9/28.

XII. Financial Reports-FYI

- A. June 30, 2015 Budget Transfers FYI
- B. Claims Auditor Report and Warrants #38 A,C,TA; #12 F; #11, #14 R,S-June 2015
- C. Budget Status - June 2015
- D. Cash Flow-June 2015

XIII. Closing Remarks

A. Public Communications to the Board - David Booher, Youth Pastor at LaFayette Alliance Church: After having some discussion with Principal Chupaila, Mr. Booher would like to propose starting a Prayer Group Ministry for the High School. Four out of five local city schools have such a group in place, and being that much of the LaFayette Alliance Church's congregation are acting LaFayette School District members as well, the Church would be invested and want to be involved in the student's lives in any aspect they may need. His plan is to come and pray with students about any needs that students may have, and this group would be open for anyone interested. Programs like this one in the city schools have had positive results, and he feels it would be the same for LaFayette. He is still working with Administration for timing and location of such a group, but the plan is come down on a regular basis, discuss things going on and have a short prayer. Jerry Kelly said that Pastor Booher suggested a Big Brother/Big Sister program with athletics and Grimshaw, as well as tutoring in the church during after school hours, providing motivation for students to participate in activities, which he was very interested in getting athletes involved in and thought it would be a great addition to our community.

XIV. Executive Session

A. Enter into Executive Session - Topics to be discussed are a Personnel issue, Contract negotiations, and a student legal matter. Principal Chupaila was invited to stay for the Session.

A motion to go into Executive Session was made by Trustee LaCava, seconded by Trustee Scofield at approximately 7:07pm.

Motion Carried: Yes- 5 No- 0 Absent – 2 (M. Dodge, J. Keefe)
James Chupaila left at approximately 7:40 p.m.

B. Come out of Executive Session - Mark Johnson left at 8:30 p.m.

A motion to come out of Executive Session was made by Trustee Whitney, and seconded by Trustee D. Dodge at approximately 8:59 p.m.

XV. Adjournment

A. Adjourn the Meeting

A motion to adjourn the meeting was moved by Trustee LaCava, seconded by Trustee Whitney at approximately 9:03 p.m.

Motion carried: Yes – 4 No – 0 Absent – 3 (M. Dodge, Johnson, Keefe)

Respectfully Submitted,
Kasey McHale, District Clerk of the Board