

**LA FAYETTE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION – REGULAR MEETING  
October 8, 2015**

I. Opening

A. Call to Order - The Regular Meeting of the LaFayette Board of Education was held on Thursday, October 8, 2015 at the LaFayette Jr./Sr. High School Library. President Matt Dodge called the meeting to order at approximately 5:32 pm. Present were Vice President Johnson, and Trustees D. Dodge, Keefe, Whitney and LaCava, Superintendent Laura Lavine, School Business Official Tiffany Turner, Board Clerk Kasey McHale, and Administrators James Chupaila, and Diane Ellsworth. Also in attendance were Supervisors Jim Kesler and Ron Cooper, Sean Griffin, Chris Gray, and External Auditors Pat Powers and Oksana Nemesajevs.

B. Pledge of Allegiance - Led by President Dodge

C. Opening Remarks – President Dodge recommended that the Board of Education motion to vote to go into an Executive Session at the top of the meeting, to discuss the discipline of a student.

II. Executive Session

A. Enter into Executive Session

A motion was made to enter into Executive Session to discuss the discipline of a student by Trustee Johnson, seconded by Trustee LaCava at approximately 5:33 pm.

Vote: Yes – 6      No – 0      Abstain – 0      Absent – 1 (Scofield)

B. Reconvene into Open Session

A motion was made to reconvene into an Open Session by Trustee LaCava, seconded by Trustee Keefe at approximately 6:13 pm.

Vote: Yes – 6      No – 0      Abstain – 0      Absent – 1 (Scofield)

President Dodge left the meeting at 6:13 pm.

III. Approval of Minutes

A. Regular Minutes – September 24, 2015

A motion was made to approve the minutes by Trustee LaCava, seconded by Trustee Keefe.

Vote: Yes – 4      No – 0      Abstain – 1 (Johnson)      Absent – 2 (Scofield, M. Dodge)

IV. District Presentations and Reports

A. Presentations

1. External Audit Presentation – D’Arcangelo LLP. External Auditors Pat Powers and Oksana Nemesajevs presented the Board with information summarizing their audit of LaFayette Central School District. Mr. Powers described to the Board the Executive Summary found within the packet, and suggestions for reviewing policies of our financial information and new software procedures, as well as summarized their findings for each area that was audited. School Business Official Tiffany Turner indicated that within the agenda there is an External Audit Management Letter to be approved, which describes the suggestions for corrections made by D’Arcangelo LLP and the steps LaFayette School District is taking to correct any issues. Superintendent Lavine expressed her thanks to Mr. Powers and Ms. Nemesajevs and their staff for their extensive work in the audit, the Board of Education for their decisions that lead to successful numbers for the District, and to Tiffany Turner and her team for their work that has led to such dramatic improvement in our school business operations.
2. Oral Communications – Board Member Updates. Superintendent Lavine explained that after looking at category titles within the Board meeting agenda, the words “Board Member

Updates” was added after Oral Communications to reserve the spot for all Board members to ask any questions, or report any items to the Board and the public.

V. Old Business – None

VI. New Business – None

VII. Superintendent’s Report – Superintendent Lavine reported that she attended the Superintendent’s Conference that featured a meeting with Commissioner Elia, whom the Board will all meet on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. She also attended a Rural Schools Network Director’s session, and asked the Board if they would be interested in having those team members attend a future Board meeting to present, to which Board Trustees expressed interest. Superintendent Lavine mentioned that meetings were ongoing in regards to APPR implementation with the LTA and Administration, and a decision was made to apply for a waiver allowing an entire year to further investigate implementation ideas. There are many activities happening throughout the District: Open Houses at both Onondaga Nation School and the Jr./Sr. High School, Apple King and Queen ceremonies and pep rallies. Superintendent Lavine reported that our social media accounts are up and running, with our Facebook page receiving over 100 likes in its first few days, and also shared with the Board some information from a meeting regarding the District’s transition from SIS Web (Student Information System) to School Tool. October 9<sup>th</sup> is Superintendent Conference Day, where Karen Ocque has assembled a full day for our staff, and all are looking forward to Apple Fest this weekend.

Trustee Whitney requested an update on where the District stands on costs of the construction project compared to our amount that was budgeted. Superintendent Lavine and School Business Official responded that the District is required to spend what the public voted to approve on in the Budget vote, or that money is lost, and because of the budgeted items and areas of savings we have come across over the course of this project, there are funds available for the auditorium work, and the plan is to use all money approved.

Trustee Whitney asked where the chicken coop for Big Picture was set up, to which Jim Kesler responded it had been placed outside of the main entrance to the school. Trustee Whitney requested it be noted that he is uncomfortable with the location of the chicken coop due to a possible attraction of animals so close to our school entrance. He suggested if the coop was placed in the back of the building, it may be less of a concern. Vice President Johnson asked why there was a need for a chicken coop for the students, to which Superintendent Lavine responded that through caring for the chickens, our students learn responsibility and that taking care of animals was an important part of the Big Picture student experience.

Trustee LaCava reported that our girls’ volleyball team is currently 10-0, and having a strong, exciting season.

Sean Griffin and Chris Gray were invited to give a capital project update. Trustee LaCava inquired about the status of Project Lead the Way, and Mr. Griffin reported that there are two elements still to be finished but he has not heard that these elements are hindering student learning. Both he and Mr. Gray requested that if anything is an issue to please let them know. Mr. Griffin reported that the District received bid results on the two packages sent out, they have been in touch with the attorney and a report came back clear for the current status of the project.

VIII. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Board Action Items
  1. Refunding Resolution
  2. 2015 External Audit and Management Letter
  3. Approve Awarding of Capital Project Bids
  4. 504, CSE and CPSE Recommendations

A motion to approve the Board Action Items was made by Trustee LaCava, and seconded by Trustee Keefe.

Vote: Yes – 5      No – 0      Abstain – 0      Absent – 2 (M. Dodge, Scofield)

B. Approval of Personnel Items

1. Non-Instructional Appointment 2015-2016

2. Personal Time Off – No Pay Request – *This item was tabled for the next meeting.*

A motion to approve Item 1 under the Personnel Items was made by Trustee LaCava, and seconded by Trustee Keefe.

Trustee Whitney requested information on the need of a hall monitor. Principal Chupaila responded that this position allows supervision afterschool in the halls and locker rooms, and an individual is need of both genders.

Vote: Yes – 5      No – 0      Abstain – 0      Absent – 2 (M. Dodge, Scofield)

IX. Board Non-Action Items

A. Strategic Plan Update – Superintendent Lavine reported that under the category of Jr./Sr. High School Courses, a meeting was held to further the conversation of what courses the District would be looking to offer. Ms. Lavine discussed a possible Coding Course with Mr. Morel, which led to information regarding his son Evan who, as a student, started a Coding Club for after school and that this may be something the District would be interested in offering again. Mr. Morel also suggested Discrete Math as a course he would be interested in offering. Superintendent Lavine shared Mr. Morel's description of what this course would be, and also shared that a discussion was started with Sean Zehner about the Board's interest in offering technology-based learning. Mr. Zehner is looking into what would go into a Robotics Course, and if that is something he would be interested in leading. Bill O'Leary will be meeting with students in grades 9-12 and survey them on what they would like to see as courses offered among suggestions from the staff and courses offered in other locations. Trustee Whitney asked about including current staff members to teach courses this spring and how that would affect their schedules. Superintendent Lavine explained that if these courses are offered and taught by current teachers, they would be relieved of their study hall duty to allow them to teach the course, and offer the study hall duty to Teaching Assistants. Bill O'Leary had mentioned, and this was confirmed by Trustee Keefe, that the District used to have a business department, as business or keyboarding courses are also thoughts teachers are having. Virtual courses are also available if a student expresses interest in a certain subject.

Under the Student Leadership category, Principal Chupaila reported that the High School pep rally was a big success, with a lot of enthusiasm and very well attended. A group is beginning to form, suggested to be called the Principal's Council that would increase communication between the principal and the student body. The "Council" would be made up of the president and vice president of the junior and senior class, student council and honor society, as well as 2 at-large student body members and a representative from Big Picture. The group would meet on a regular basis to discuss what is going on in the building and discuss student's needs and questions.

Trustee Whitney asked if the Blood Drive was still happening, which Principal Chupaila stated it was scheduled for the end of this month. There is a concern about students participating losing academic time, but the goal for the drive is to have any students who are eligible to donate, to do so during their lunch or study hall to avoid any loss of academic time. The Blood Drive is a Community and Student event, not just through the school, and the Red Cross does offer scholarship money depending on how many pints of blood are generated from the drive.

X. Communications

A. Public Communications to the Board – None

XI. Calendar Review

A. Upcoming Events – Staff Development Day/No School for Students 10/9, No School for Grimshaw, Big Picture or Jr./Sr. High School on 10/12, The next Board of Education meeting is 10/15 at Onondaga Nation School, Half Day/11:30 am Dismissal for Grimshaw and Onondaga Nation School on 10/29 and 10/30.

XII. Financial Reports – FYI – None

XIII. Closing Remarks – Vice President Johnson recommended that a motion be made to vote to enter into Executive Session for the discussion of contract negotiations.

XIV. Executive Session

A. Enter into Executive Session

A motion was made to enter into Executive Session by Trustee Whitney, and seconded by Trustee Keefe at approximately 7:25 pm.

Vote: Yes – 5      No – 0      Abstain – 0      Absent – 2 (M. Dodge, Scofield)

B. Reconvene into Open Session

A motion was made to reconvene into Open Session by Trustee LaCava, and seconded by Trustee D. Dodge at approximately 8:24 pm.

Vote: Yes – 5      No – 0      Abstain – 0      Absent – 2 (M. Dodge, Scofield)

XV. Adjournment

A. Adjourn the Meeting

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Trustee LaCava, and seconded by Trustee Keefe at approximately 8:25 pm.

Vote: Yes – 5      No – 0      Abstain – 0      Absent – 2 (M. Dodge, Scofield)

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kasey McHale, District Clerk of the Board