

**LA FAYETTE CENTRAL SCHOOL  
LaFayette, New York 13084**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Regular Board Meeting  
January 8, 2015 Minutes**

1) Opening

A. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the LaFayette Board of Education was held on Thursday, January 8, 2015, at the C. Grant Grimshaw School Library. President Dodge called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 p.m. Present were: Trustees Scofield, Whitney, Johnson, and D. Dodge. Also in attendance were Superintendent Lavine, School Business Official Turner, Board Clerk Munnell, and Onondaga Nation Representative Jacques. Others in attendance were: Administrators Jennifer Blossey, Karen Ocque, and Diane Ellsworth; Jim Kesler, Tom LaRose, Carlos Ferrer, Caleb Gretskey, Emily Long, Denise Dodge, Kaitlyn Dodge, Cassie Dodge, Lisa Sofranko, Jim Chupaila, Erin Oristian, Wendy Walsh, Amanda Burrell, Kristeen Cool, Cheyanne Brockway, Jodi Brockway, Joe Brockway, Ben Farmer.

Excused were: Trustee Keefe and Trustee LaCava

B. Pledge of Allegiance

President Dodge invited Teen Institute members to lead the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Superintendent Lavine asked Kristeen Cool, advisor for Teen Institute to give a short synopsis of the Teen Institute's accomplishments. Mrs. Cool extended her appreciation to the District for funding their attendance at the annual Teen Institute peer leadership workshop in November. The program included activities centered around anti-drug, anti-bullying and youth empowerment themes.

C. Opening Remarks

President Dodge said welcome and there will be an Executive Session at the end of the meeting.

2) Executive Session

3) Approval of Minutes

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Motion by Trustee Scofield, Seconded by Trustee Whitney

Motion carried: Yes – 5                      No – 0                      Absent – 2 (Keefe, LaCava)

4) District Presentation and Reports

A. None Scheduled

B. Oral Communications – Community Connections

President Dodge offered his hope that everyone had a good Christmas break. He proudly announced that his daughter, Cassie received a gold and silver key in the Annual Scholastic Art Competition. Trustee Scofield mentioned that on Tuesday night about 20 people met at the High School Library for the Community Budget meeting. They were a good representation of the faculty and community. They had an opportunity to ask questions and learn how the budget process works. There was a roundtable discussion for the participants to share their opinions. There was a lot of positive feedback. President Dodge read a flyer provided by CNYSSBA regarding open community forums entitled, "Our Schools Remain At Risk", to be held on February 3 in Auburn and February 5 in North Syracuse. For more information, contact Sarah Munnell at the District Office.

5) Old Business

A. Veterans' Tax Exemption update by School Business Official Turner to the Board on the status of the Veterans' Tax Exemption. She commented that area schools are waiting news from the County. It needs to be adopted by March 1. She will give an update at the next meeting and in the end, the Exemption will need a resolution approval from the Board.

6) New Business

- A. Superintendent Lavine introduced Carlos Ferrer as our new Network Administrator. Carlos stated he is taking on a lot of initiatives since beginning in the District December 22. LaFayette is ahead of other Districts in several areas. He is in the beginning stages of migrating LotusNotes to Google mail. He is excited to be a part of the LaFayette District.
- B. Superintendent Lavine welcomed Jim Chupaila as the new interim Jr./Sr. High School Principal. She mentioned that he bring a very deep and broad experience with him which will greatly benefit our District. Mr. Chupaila indicated that he hopes to make a positive contribution to the District.
- C. Superintendent Lavine also acknowledged Karen Ocque, Director of Instruction, Pupil Services and CSE Chairperson. Ms. Ocque gave the Board an update that included CSE meetings and working with the Rtl Team (Response to Intervention). She is meeting with all departments and grade levels to begin a review of our curricula.

7) Superintendent Report

A. Superintendent Updates Board

- Superintendent Lavine showed the Board a news article in the Post Standard that was published today. The article highlighted a Grimshaw student, Ocasio Hazeltine, who has a rare type of cancer. It told how the school community is rallying support for the family to offset family costs that are not covered by insurance. A benefit will be held on February 7.
- Mrs. Lavine told the Board about an email that was sent to Mrs. Osborn from Barbara Rice, LCSW, praising Mrs. Osborn and her staff at the Big Picture School.
- Many of our students participated in the Hour of Code, a global movement to introduce students to computer science. The purpose was to demystify code and show that anybody can learn the basics.
- Mrs. Lavine commended Mr. Kesler on his handbook that he created for his staff.
- Mrs. Lavine said that New York State is funding a study for the Onondaga Nation School for \$40,000. A lot of time and effort has been put in by present and past administrators for a capital project. The Onondaga Nation School has had an increase of 47% enrollment in the past 7 years.
- Mrs. Lavine asked Mrs. Turner for an update on the capital project. We recently received approval by the State Education Department. Timeline: January 6-send out for bids; January 15-pre-bid walk through; January 22-bid opening at Grimshaw Cafeteria. Once contractors are approved for the projects, preliminary demolition will start at the High School-LGI during February break.
- Mrs. Lavine discussed with the Board the requisite to have a Purchase Order Authorization Threshold. She feels comfortable with a \$10,000 limit in case of an emergency situation. It requires a resolution and should be voted on at the January 22 meeting.

On the recommendation of Superintendent Lavine to approve items 8 B, C, D, E, F, G a motion was made by Trustee Johnson, seconded by Trustee D. Dodge:

8) Consent Agenda – Board Action Items

- A. Approval of Board Action Items
- B. Approve Treasurer Reports – November 2014
- C. Approve Budget Transfers – November 2014
- D. Approve Resolution – Greg Bump
- E. Approve Leave of Absence Request – Instructional
- F. Approve Policy 7132-Admission of Non-Resident Students – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading
- G. Approve CSE/CPSE Recommendations

There was discussion and community input for Item 8F. The Board tabled Item 8F and a motion was made by Trustee Whitney, seconded by Trustee D. Dodge

Motion carried: Yes – 5      No – 0      Absent – 2 (Keefe, LaCava)  
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On the recommendation of Superintendent Lavine to approve items 9 B – E, a motion was made by Trustee Scofield, seconded by Trustee Whitney:

- 9) Consent Agenda – Personnel Items
  - A. Approval of Personnel Items
  - B. Approval of Appointment–Administrative #4 2014-2015
  - C. Approval of Appointment–Instructional #11 2014-2015
  - D. Approval of Appointment–Substitute #8 2014-2015
  - E. Approval of Retirement/Resignation–Instructional #5 2014-2015

Motion carried: Yes – 5      No – 0      Absent – 2 (Keefe, LaCava)

- 10) Board Non-Action Items
  - None

- 11) Communications
  - Letter-LaFayette Outreach-Donation

- 12) Calendar Review
  - A. Upcoming Events – President Dodge stated next Board of Education meeting will be on Thursday, January 22 at the Jr./Sr. High School-LGI with pre-meeting with LTA member at 5:30 and the regular meeting will begin at 6:30. Budget Committee Meetings are scheduled for Monday, January 12 at the Grimshaw School Library and Tuesday, January 27 at the Jr./Sr. High School-LGI. On January 12, the Town of LaFayette Annual Reorganizational meeting will be held at the Town offices. January 19 – No School-All Buildings (Martin Luther King, Jr. Observation), January 12-GAPS parent meeting at Grimshaw School, January 26-Jr./Sr. High School parent meeting, January 30-Professional Development-Early Dismissal for all schools, January 31-Optimist Winter Carnival at Grimshaw School.

- 13) Financial Reports
  - A. Cash Flow
  - B. Budget Status
  - C. Claims Auditor Report
  - D. Warrants

- 14) Closing Remarks
  - A. Public Communications to the Board

- 15) Executive Session
  - A. Enter into Executive Session
    - On the recommendation of President Dodge, a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting to enter into Executive Session to discuss the medical, financial, credit or employment history of any particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of any particular person or corporation was made by Trustee Scofield, seconded by Trustee D. Dodge at 7:50 p.m.

Motion carried:      Yes – 5      No – 0      Absent – 2 (Keefe, LaCava)

Trustee LaCava arrived at 8:15 p.m.

- B. Reconvene into Open Session
  - A motion to come out of Executive Session by Trustee Whitney and seconded by Trustee LaCava at approximately 9:27 p.m.

Motion carried:            Yes - 6            No – 0            Absent – 1 (Keefe)

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16) Adjournment

A. Adjourn the meeting

A motion to adjourn by Trustee Whitney and seconded by Trustee Johnson at approximately 9:36 p.m.

Motion carried:            Yes - 6            No – 0            Absent – 1 (Keefe)

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Munnell, Board Clerk