

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION

**Regular Board Meeting
October 9, 2014 Minutes**

1) Opening

A. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the LaFayette Board of Education was held on Thursday, October 9, 2014, at the Big Picture School. President Dodge called the meeting to order at approximately 5:38 p.m. Present were: Trustees Keefe, LaCava, D. Dodge, Scofield, and Johnson. Also in attendance were Superintendent Lavine, School Business Official Turner, Board Clerk Munnell and Onondaga Nation Representative Jacques. Others in attendance were: Administrators Greg Bump, Jennifer Blossey, Susan Osborn, and Diane Ellsworth; Pat Powers, Mike Davis, Dora Schloss-Witkowski, Ann Schaefer, Donna Knapp, Gary Oelkers, Tom LaRose, Erin Oristian, Anne Courtwright, Sue Bang, Kevin Morel, Sean Zehner, Gretchen Gretskey.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

President Dodge led the participants in the Pledge of Allegiance

C. Opening Remarks

President Dodge said that this weekend is the Apple Festival. He is hoping for good weather for an incredible weekend. It is amazing to see the amount of people involved and how intertwined staff, community and businesses are. Mr. Dodge said there would be a brief Executive Session at the beginning of the meeting.

2) Executive Session

A. Enter into Executive Session a motion

On the recommendation of President Dodge, a motion to discuss Part f. of Policy 1730-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 Johnson to enter into Executive Session at 5:40 p.m.

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

B. Reconvene into Open Session

A motion to come out of Executive Session by Trustee Scofield and seconded by Trustee LaCava at approximately 6:01 p.m.

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

3) Approval of Minutes

Regular Minutes – September 23, 2014 – with amendments

Motion by Trustee Scofield, Seconded by Trustee Johnson

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

4) District Presentation and Reports

A. External Audit Presentation – D’Arcangelo LLP

Pat Powers, CPA, PFS of D’Arcangelo, LLP, gave the annual report to the Board regarding the District’s financial status. His firm completed the audit for June 30, 2014. This is the third year his firm has done the audit and there has been an improvement each year. Last year, the firm included a management comment on the closing procedures. That problem has been corrected. He praised the Business Office for outstanding work and the significant improvements that have been made.

B. Spanish Trip Presentation – Zoila Romeu

Mrs. Romeu, Spanish Teacher at the Jr./Sr. High School, proposed to the Board a trip for grades 8-12 Spanish students who are proficient in the language. The plan would be a student exchange. LaFayette students would take the trip on February break for 8-10 days and the Spanish students would come to LaFayette during their school year. The students and parents pay for air fare and would be staying with host families. They would have the opportunity to tour and learn the culture of Spain firsthand.

C. Becoming a Google School – Sue Bang

Mrs. Bang, Library Media Specialist at the Jr./Sr. High School, gave a presentation which included a YouTube video made by High School teachers and students showing the benefits of becoming a Google School. Becoming a Google School will make communication easier among students, staff, and families. President Dodge thanked Mrs. Bang for her leadership and staff members for their support: Kevin Morel, Sean Zehner, Gary Oelkers.

Trustee Whitney arrived at 6:58 p.m.

D. Oral Communications – Community Connections

President Dodge once again acknowledged the Apple Festival this weekend and how the community comes together. Trustee LaCava said the football team is still winning. Their record is 5-0. Go Lancers!

5) Old Business

A. Gary Oelkers, SRO

Mr. Oelkers handed out a short note to the Board regarding his decision-making regarding being armed in the District. He also said he would like to get written permission first from the Onondaga Nation Leadership if there is a need for him to be armed when entering the Nation School.

6) New Business

None

7) Superintendent Report

A. Superintendent Updates Board

Superintendent Lavine congratulated the Board on their first use of BoardDocs on district-owned Chromebooks on loan to the Trustees. She mentioned that Mike Davis is present at the meeting offering his support and Scott Nickerson, OCM-BOCES called to see if we wanted him to attend, too. She thanked Mrs. Munnell and Mrs. Turner for their help in getting BoardDocs running so quickly and efficiently.

She stated that she had sent the Board an email about wrestling mats that were previously housed at the High School and are now at the Grimshaw School. They would need a lift to store them which would cost \$25,000. The District is going to offer them to the Town. Another District has expressed an interest if the Town did not have use for them. The result in getting rid of them would be some cost avoidance which we will redirect to add cameras throughout the buildings.

She talked about the ONS renovation request to the State Education Department. After continuing conversations with Mr. Szuberla, Asst. Comm. of State Ed., he has agreed to move the renovation request forward to the Department of Budget. This is the first time that our request has made it this far in the process of getting into the Governor's budget so we are grateful for his support. Also at ONS, we're transitioning from mulch to grass in many areas which will still be aesthetically pleasing but much less labor-intensive.

Superintendent Lavine mentioned that a Superintendent's Conference Day is Friday, October 10. Our own in-house experts along with Rob Leo and Laurie LeFever, BOCES Instructional Technology Specialists, will teach our faculty how to use Google Drive, Calendar, Sites and Classroom. She thanked Sue Bang, Dave Amidon, Sean Zehner, Mike Piccotti, Elizabeth Murray, Sandra Burt, Jenn McDonald for their leadership and for sharing their talent tomorrow. A great day is planned which wouldn't be possible without our talented and dedicated staff.

Ms. Lavine reminded the Board that we announced that November's newsletter would be the last one to be printed in large quantities. We've typically printed 2500 each month, mailed most of them. We told people that we would provide a printed copy for those who request it as well as for each building, the library and the post office. We've had only 108 requests. That means we're reducing the number of hard copies by approximately 2400 which is a 96% reduction which saves money, paper and mailing costs.

Today, we had a follow-up meeting with the BOCES people who helped us with our community survey about communication and who are supporting our change to a different website. At 137 responses, they said that that's by far the most responses they've seen for any district. We're really pleased that the community is recognizing our efforts to improve communication and that so many took the time to respond to our questions. Ms. Lavine invited Danica Kaltaler and Josh Seitz to our next Board meeting to share the survey responses with the Board and community. In today's meeting, we also finalized what our new website will look like. That will also be shown to you at the next Board meeting. I think you'll be pleased with the changes that will include a Google calendar which Mrs. Munnell is going to learn how to create at our Superintendent Conference Day tomorrow.

Along with that good news, five of the Trustees might recall that Ms. Lavine's entry plan included creating an app for our district. That is also well underway and we hope to have that ready to present soon.

Superintendent Lavine attended the monthly superintendent's meeting Wednesday. From a curriculum standpoint, she mentioned that Social Studies will be changing so the District will likely look at some curriculum development work that will need to be done next summer.

Ms. Lavine mentioned she recently donated a piano to Signature Music, an organization run by someone named Dick Ford. His group refurbishes instruments for needy students and also provides free music lessons. Coincidentally, Susan Osborn spoke with Mr. Ford about working with Big Picture students and see what the potential is for our students. Ms. Lavine, Ms. Osborn, and Mr. Ford will meet next week.

Jim Kesler has scheduled AED/CPR training for the Custodial and Maintenance staff for December.

The Health and Safety Committee met this week, Ms. Lavine was interviewed for the yearbook, and she met with the Big Picture faculty.

The Apple Festival is this weekend which will be a great event as always. Ms. Lavine is eager to wear her new shirt.

On the recommendation of Superintendent Lavine to approve items 8 B – H, a motion was made by Trustee LaCava, seconded by Trustee Keefe:

- 8) Consent Agenda – Board Action Items
 - A. Approval of Board Action Items
 - B. 2014 External Audit and Management Letter
 - C. Contract Amendment for Lease Property
 - D. Budget Calendar 2015-2016
 - E. MOA between LCSD and LTA – Long Term Per Diem Substitutes
 - F. Request for Paternal Leave
 - G. Request for Private/Parochial Transportation
 - H. Approve CSE/CPSE Recommendations

Motion carried: Yes – 6 No – 0 Abstain – 1 (D. Dodge)

On the recommendation of Superintendent Lavine to approve items 9 B – H, a motion was made by Trustee Scofield, seconded by Trustee LaCava:

- 9) Consent Agenda – Personnel Items
 - A. Approval of Personnel Items
 - B. Leave of Absence – Instructional #1 2014-2015
 - C. Resignation – Co-Curricular #2 2014-2015
 - D. Appointment – Instructional #8 2014-2015
 - E. Appointment – Administration #3 2014-2015
 - F. Appointment – Instructional #9 2014-2015
 - G. Appointment – Substitute #4 2014-2015
 - H. Appointment – Interscholastic #3 Winter 2014-2015

Motion carried: Yes – 6 No – 0 Abstain – 1 (D. Dodge)

10) Board Non-Action Items

None

11) Communications

None

12) Calendar Review

- A. Upcoming Events – President Dodge stated Friday, October 10, No School for Students due to a Staff Development Day; Apple Festival – October 11 and 12; Columbus Day – No School for Students – October 13; October 21 Red Cross Blood Drive at Jr./Sr. High School; October 23 Board of Education meeting at Jr./Sr. High School-LGI

13) Financial Reports

None

14) Closing Remarks

- A. Public Communications to the Board:
Mrs. Erin Oristian inquired about whom to contact with questions about IEP's and Section 504 plans. Superintendent Lavine said to contact Mrs. Conroy, Interim Director of Special Education. Also, the Board voted tonight for Karen Ocque to start on Monday, November 10.

Mrs. Donna Knapp shared that it is a great idea to reduce numbers of printed newsletters for cost reasons but should take time for the community to get used to the change. People can contact the District Office to get on the list to receive the newsletter.

Mr. Tom LaRose wondered if the mats were going to still be available for his use on his gymnastic unit. Yes, those mats will remain at Grimshaw School.

Mrs. Gretchen Gretsky shared her enthusiasm about the changes in and implementation of new instructional technology.

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 LaCava, seconded by Trustee Johnson at 7:38 p.m.

Motion carried: Yes – 7 No – 0 Absent – 0

B. Reconvene into Open Session

A motion to come out of Executive Session by Trustee Scofield and seconded by Trustee Keefe at approximately 9:06 p.m.

Motion carried: Yes - 7 No – 0 Absent – 0

16) Adjournment

A. Adjourn the meeting

A motion to adjourn by Trustee LaCava and seconded by Trustee D. Dodge at approximately 9:07 p.m.

Motion carried: Yes - 7 No – 0 Absent – 0

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Munnell, Board Clerk