

LA FAYETTE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
5955 US Route 20
LaFayette, New York 13084
BOARD OF EDUCATION – REGULAR MEETING
September 10, 2015

- I. Opening
- A. Call to Order - The Regular Meeting of the LaFayette Board of Education was held on Thursday, September 10, 2015 at the LaFayette Jr./Sr. High School Library. President Matt Dodge called the meeting to order at approximately 5:33 pm. Presenter were Vice President Mark Johnson, Trustees Mike LaCava, Don Dodge, and Jim Keefe; Superintendent Laura Lavine, School Business Official Tiffany Turner, Board Clerk Kasey McHale; Administrators Jennifer Blossey, Diane Ellsworth, Susan Osborn, James Chupaila, and Karen Ocque. Others in attendance were Lucy Mackey, Jerry Kelly, Matt Priest, Sean Griffin, Chris Gray, Gretchen Gretskey and Adrien Shute.
- B. Pledge of Allegiance - Led by President Dodge
- C. Opening Remarks – Superintendent Lavine introduced Lucy Mackey, who is the long-term substitute for Kelly Kubeja at the Jr./Sr. High School that was appointed at the August 27th Board Meeting. President Dodge thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and welcomed all staff members, and hoped the opening of school went well for all. He also mentioned the Board would be holding a vote at the end of the meeting to go into Executive Session.
- II. Executive Session – To be voted on 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 Vice Present Johnson.
- Vote: Yes – 5 No – 0 Abstain – 1 (LaCava) Absent – 1 (Whitney)
Trustee Mark Whitney arrived at 5:48 pm.
- IV. District Presentation and Reports
- A. Presentations
1. Project Challenge Summary – Matt Priest gave a presentation explaining Project Challenge and the benefits of having the program, including K-12 and Higher Education faculty working side-by-side, LaFayette School District and Tully School District working along with SUNY Cortland, and students in grades 4-8 working with a focus on project-based learning. The program was a three-week summer program, including transportation and lunch for all participating students. Total enrollment for the program reached 105 students from both school districts, and staff participation from Grimshaw, Onondaga Nation School and the High School. This is the third year of this program involving LaFayette and Tully

School Districts. Throughout the program students spent time at the Onondaga Nation School learning many aspects of the culture, time at Tully High School (the home site of the program), and on the SUNY Cortland campus.

B. Oral Communications

1. Capital Project Update – Sean Griffin and Chris Gray presented an update of the Capital Project. An original summary of the project showed that all involved knew that there would be projects still in work once school began, and into October. President Dodge indicated that when the Board took a tour of the project and the different buildings they were given the impression all was on schedule and the only things that may not be in place come the start of school would be some display cases, however when the students came there was a lot more unfinished work than they had realized. Mr. Gray responded that at that time the work was in place, but from that tour to the beginning of school complications did come up between the many people involved in the project, and in the line of communication sometimes bad information can make its way up. Trustee Whitney indicated that while he understands things can come up in doing a large project, he feels that there was not great communication in the status of the project and inquired about consequences of missing deadlines within this project. Mr. Gray stated he and the other contractors met with Jim Kesler daily, and often with other administrators. Trustee LaCava indicated a concern about the deadlines not being met with school beginning, and little things adding up to big things the students and staff are working through. Mr. Gray responded that there are no consequences set in place in this circumstance when dealing with outside companies who say they are coming at a certain time and don't without delaying the entire project further and involving legal counsel and money. Mr. Griffin presented a list of projects still to finish at all the buildings with expected dates of completion. There was discussion about the music suite, the High School main entrance and the green panels at the entrance to Grimshaw Elementary.

V. Old Business - None

VI. New Business - None

VII. Superintendent Report – Superintendent Lavine asked, based on the strategic plan and the goal of having communication between the Board and Administration, how the Board would like to be contacted regarding Capital Project updates, to which the Board agreed that daily updates via email, whether good or bad, would be appreciated. Ms. Lavine presented a horseshoe that had been found in the new paving as evidence of how much our community has grown and the treasures you can uncover in the progress of such a major progress. She also shared an email from Jay Czyz and Becky Pethybridge thanking Jim Kesler and Sean Griffin for cleaning up the music area, allowing them to use the space. The World Lacrosse Championship event is beginning on September 18th, with lacrosse teams from around the world coming to the area, and Ms. Lavine announced that ONS would be attending a few games as a school. She thanked Matt Priest for his Project Challenge presentation, and thanked all staff for getting schools up and running.

Ms. Lavine presented a routing book from Transportation Supervisor Ron Cooper that is for all drivers, and available for when there is a substitute bus driver. The book contains the bus route, both morning and afternoon, IEP notes, allergies and other pertinent information. She indicated that this system has gotten positive feedback from our bus drivers and thanked Ron for starting this at our school. Ms. Lavine also reported that there was a minor accident involving a bus that was carrying two Pre-K students, but there was no injuries and all parents were contacted. Ms. Lavine then shared a co-curricular progress report to the Board for their approval to give to all advisors to obtain more specific information throughout the year on our clubs and groups.

VIII. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Board Action Items

1. Surplus of Floor Mixer
2. Treasurer's Reports July 2015
3. Approval of 504, CSE, CPSE REcommendations

A motion to approve the Items was made by Trustee LaCava seconded by Vice President Johnson.

Motion Carried: Yes – 7 No – 0 Abstain - 0

B. Approval of Personnel Items

1. Approve Appointment - Instructional 2015-2016
2. Approve Appointment – Non-Instruction 2015-2016
3. Approve Substitute Appointment Amendment 2015-2016
4. Unpaid Personal Time Off Request 2015-2016

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

Motion Carried: Yes - 7 No - 0 Abstain - 0

President Dodge wished good luck to Mrs. Brunner, as she has to leave the country for family business.

IX. Board Non-Action Items

A. Strategic Plan Update – Superintendent Lavine explained that the strategic plan will appear on every board agenda to get periodic updates on goals. She had a meeting with Bill O'Leary regarding graduation status and course offerings for college credits from OCC, SUPA and TCCC, and surveying students to find their interests. Ms. Lavine explained that Mr. O'Leary will be creating an online survey for current students and alumni to express their opinions on programs offered. There was discussing regarding advances in the technology field, how this would be helpful to our students and what steps we could take as a District to offer different options in the technology field to our students. There was also discussion regarding involvement of community members in advisors, student leaders and creating leaders in our schools. Ms. Lavine suggested continuing the discussing in an Administrators meeting and invited Jerry Kelly to participate in the meeting.

X. Communications

A. Student Drug Use – Superintendent Lavine indicated that student drug use is a top that is constantly on the minds of anyone involved in Administration and Education, and is discussed among the Administration and Board. She has heard about rumors among the

community that there is a drug problem within LaFayette School District and that Administration just sweeps it under the rug. Ms. Lavine stated that this is not the case. There was discussion regarding drug use becoming more acceptable in public and in homes and how it is not looked at as seriously as it was in the past within society. A community member expressed her concern after her daughter had an experience on her bus with other students. There was other discussion regarding taking any suspicion more seriously. Jerry Kelly indicated he has also heard of heroin use among our students, but was not sure where it originates or comes from, and wanted to mention that is not just students in the Big Picture School, but throughout the District. Board and community members discussed focusing information regarding the dangers of drug use on our youth at the Elementary level, and Superintendent Lavine stated she would follow up on this topic with all Administrators and Jerry Kelly.

XI. Calendar Review

A. Upcoming Events – GAPS Meeting 9/14; Grimshaw Curriculum Night 9/17; ONS Picture Day 9/18; Jr/Sr High School Parent Group Meeting, ONS Welcome Back Dinner and ONS Open House 9/22; Half Day for all Students/11:30 Dismissal 9/23; and the next Board of Education meeting will be 9/24/15.

XII. Financial Reports-FYI

- A. Budget Status – July 2015
- B. Claims Auditor Reports and Warrants – July 2015
- C. Cash Flow – July 2015

XIII. Closing Remarks

A. Public Communications to the Board - Trustee Whitney wanted to express his thanks to all administrators, staff and students for adapting through a hot week.

XIV. Executive Session

A. Enter into Executive Session

A motion to go into Executive Session was made by Trustee Scofield, seconded by Vice President Johnson at approximately 7:50 pm to discuss a student with Administration.

Motion Carried: Yes- 7 No- 0 Abstain - 0.

B. Come out of Executive Session

A motion to come out of Executive Session was made by Trustee LaCava, and seconded by Trustee Scofield at approximately 9:50 p.m.

Motion Carried: Yes – 6 No – 0 Absent – 1 (D. Dodge)

XV. Adjournment

A. Adjourn the Meeting

A motion to adjourn the meeting was moved by Vice President Johnson, seconded by Trustee Scofield at approximately 9:51 p.m.

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Kasey McHale, District Clerk of the Board