

LaFayette Central School District  
Board of Education - Regular Meeting  
Location: Jr. Sr. High School Library  
Address: 3122 US Route 11  
LaFayette, NY 13084  
May 8, 2024

I. Opening

A. Call to Order - The Board of Education meeting for the Lafayette Central School district was called to order at 5:30 pm by President Reyburn. In attendance were Trustee J. Gates, S. Stanton, A. Moore, A. Roe-Ryan, M. LaCava, L. Podsiedlik, Superintendent Jeremy Belfield, School Business Official and Deputy Clerk Laurie Holtsbery.

1. Guests in attendance - Susan Hart, Mackenzie McElhannon, Megan Burns, Lily McElhannon, Gracie Burns, Kiera Reed, Claire Fischer, Amanda Johnson, Teagan Vossler, Joey Davidson, Ellie McElhannon, Kelly Davidson, Austin Johnson, Alanna Stanton, Lisa Shenandoah Kurtz, Jennifer Ortlieb
2. Virtual Guests - Jennifer Lockwood, Ashley Kolbeck, Maria Edwards, James McKenna, Mallory Charpentier, Teresa Miller, Shannon Thayer, Sean Zehner

B. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Reyburn at 5:30 pm

C. Opening Remarks - President Reyburn reviewed appropriate meeting conduct and meeting rules.

II. Approval of Minutes -

A. Regular Minutes of [April 17, 2024](#)

**Motion:** Carried      **1st:** Trustee LaCava      **2nd:** Trustee Ryan-Roe  
**Vote: Yes:** 7      **No:** 0      **Abstain:** 0      **Absent:** 0

III. District Presentation

A. [Budget Hearing](#) Ms. Holtsbery presented the proposed budget. The presentation included the 2024-2025 budget goals, and the student board member proposition which Mr. Belfield explained. Applications for a student board member will be available next week. Ms. Holtsbery continued with the two reserves propositions and the transportation proposition. Mr. Belfield shared details of the plan for the lighting project at the high school, details of the transportation proposition and details of the capital reserves proposition. Mr. Belfield asked about the financial shape of the District. Ms. Holtsbery responded that the District is in good financial shape. Mr. Belfield added information about the financial shape of the District. The District is appropriating \$621,000 thousand in reserves for next school year. The District is \$2,000,000 short in state aid. If the budget does not pass then the District will go to a contingent budget. If the budget doesn't pass after the revote it is a state law that outside groups cannot use the District facilities. Mr. Belfield thanked Ms. Holtsbery for a job well done.

- B. Student Presentation - Mental Health Awareness - The students thanked the Board for allowing them to speak. They individually introduced themselves. Each student shared research, also their thoughts and concerns of other students on mental health, how it is handled and the changes they would like to see take place. A calendar of mental health events was shared and the events questioned. A piece on Morgan's Message was presented; It is a mental health organization that focuses on expanding the dialogue on mental health by normalizing conversations, empowering those who suffer in silence, and supporting those who feel alone. Another organization is the Sexy Potato which started at a lacrosse game where a kid was being made fun of. Kids are curious about the name and really connected with the organization. The name of the organization means that it is okay to not be okay and that there are others going through similar experiences. Fundraiser proceeds go to the Upstate Golisano Children's Mental Health unit. Another message with the Sexy Potato organization is that no one is the same - everyone is different. The group thanked the Board for listening.

Trustee Stanton, Trustee LaCava, Trustee Podsiedlik, and Trustee Gates commented on the student's presentation.

Mr. Belfield commented on the presentation, thanking the kids for their feedback and asked the students to be patient with the services that are available. There are plans in the works behind the scenes to assist the student body. Renee Pierce organized guest speakers for events throughout the year and very few parents have attended. Mr. Belfield asked students to encourage participation in the events that are currently available. Concerns can be reported on the [Tip Line](#) which is currently in use and is available on the District website. The information goes to the building Principals, the Psychologists and Superintendent Belfield.

Trustee Reyburn commented that he is a mental health professional and a parent of the District. He referred to the mental health calendar and explained that the purpose of the events is about building relationships. He then asked the students if they were talking to their parents and they answered yes. Mr. Reyburn commented that they did a wonderful job and expressed that it is very important to talk to their parents.

Trustee Moore commented that the group is very diverse and asked how they came to know each other. The group responded they know each other through Sports.

MacKenzie McElhannon commented on the students' presentation and the job teachers are doing.

- C. Meet the Candidates - Mr. Belfield introduced Trustee Stanton and Trustee Reyburn, the incumbents running to serve another three year term.

Trustee Stanton really enjoyed the last three and learned a lot and she is excited to run again.

Trustee Reyburn is happy to serve and be involved in the things that are happening in the community.

Superintendent Belfield thanked Trustee Stanton and Trustee Reyburn for their willingness to serve.

Teressa Miller, online, sent the message - Thank you for running. Trustee LaCava commented on his experience on the Board and other Boards and stated that this is a solid group that has the kids' interests in mind. He is happy that Trustee Stanton and Trustee Reyburn are running again.

IV. Policy Discussion

A. LaFayette Board of Education Policy Review

1. Second Reading for Policy 5710, 5711, 5720, 5730, 5731, 5740, 5741 and Policy 1640

**Motion:** Carried **1st:** Trustee Roe-Ryan **2nd:** Trustee Trustee Gates  
**Vote: Yes:** 7 **No:** 0 **Abstain:** 0 **Absent:** 0

V. Communications

A. Board Member Updates -

1. CNY SBA 41st Annual Dinner May 22nd - Superintendent Belfield gave details of the CNY SBA 41st annual dinner.

DASNY Pool Bonds Signed for Sale - Trustee Reyburn shared information on signing documents for the sale of bonds.

Trustee Reyburn shared information from the last BOCES meeting.

- VI. Superintendent's Report - Mr. Belfield thanked Trustee Reyburn for serving on the BOCES Board to which Trustee Reyburn was recently reelected for a new term. Mr. Belfield presented to Graduate students on April 29th. He and Ms. Petranchuk met with a team from CCSI, the agency that provides support to schools. Bobbie Henson at Grimshaw is from CCSI. She has been a fantastic addition to the District. Thanks to Onondaga County CCSI and most importantly thanks to Bobbie Henson for her work with our students. Mr. Belfield shared the ONS Principal interview process. There are three finalists and hope to meet with the Nation Leaders to have a candidate soon. The budget was presented at the Onondaga Nation School, the Big Picture School and at Grimshaw Elementary School. Special thanks to Ms. Holtsbery throughout the budget developing process. We are planning for our next capital project and will have the referendum to the voters mid to late fall possible early winter. The walkthroughs have been completed. There will be a review for the Board and a walkthrough of the bus garage to see the corrosion on the lift.

VII. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Board Action Items

1. CSE, CPSE, 504 Recommendations
2. Health and Welfare Contract Syracuse CSD Most Holy Rosary
3. OCC College Credit Now
4. Transportation Requests School Year 24-25

**Motion:** Carried **1st:** Trustee Podsiedlik **2nd:** Trustee LaCava  
**Vote: Yes:** 7 **No:** 0 **Abstain:** 0 **Absent:** 0

B. Approval of Personnel Items

1. Leave of Absence

**Motion:** Carried      **1st:** Trustee LaCava      **2nd:** Trustee Stanton  
**Vote: Yes:** 7      **No:** 0      **Abstain:** 0      **Absent:** 0

VIII. Calendar Review

A. Upcoming Events

- Early Dismissal for PLCs every Monday - 1:45 GS/ONS; 2:00 HS/BP
- Co-Curricular Club meets during the week 2:45 pm - 3:15 pm - Refer to the District Calendar for specific club meeting dates.
  1. May 9th - GS Kindergarten Cap and Gown Pictures  
- District Wide Art Show 6 pm-8 pm-Jr. Sr. High School
  2. May 10<sup>th</sup> - HS Marking Period 5 Report Cards mailed  
- Rockfest from 6:00 pm-10:00 pm in the south parking lot  
- Parade of Baskets at GS 4 pm - 7 pm  
- Meteorologist Presentation 12 noon at GS
  3. May 15<sup>th</sup> - National College Decision Day  
- ONS Family Night 5 pm - 7 pm  
- GS 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip to Syracuse Mets
  4. May 16<sup>th</sup> - Jr. High Spring Concert - Chorus and Band 7:00 pm  
- Nation Farm Visit to GS for Pre-K - 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Students
  5. May 17<sup>th</sup> - Senior Class Breakfast 8:15 am - 10:15 am  
- Prom 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm  
- Grandparent's Day  
- Nation Farm Visit to GS for 4<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Students  
- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip to Fort Stanwix 8:30 am - 1:30 pm
  6. May 21<sup>st</sup> - Budget Vote from 1:00 pm - 9:00 pm in the HS foyer  
- Board of Education Meeting 5:30pm in the BP Commons  
- Grimshaw Spring Concert 7pm at the Jr. Sr. High School

IX. Public Comments

A. Public Communications to the Board - No public communication

X. Proposed Executive Session - Subject to Board Approval

A. Enter into the Executive Session for the purpose of discussing employment history of a particular person, litigation and student information at 7:21 pm.

**Motion:** Carried      **1st:** Trustee LaCava      **2nd:** Trustee Stanton  
**Vote: Yes:** 7      **No:** 0      **Abstain:** 0      **Absent:** 0

B. Reconvene into Open Session at 9:52 pm

**Motion:** Carried

**Vote: Yes:** 7

**1st:** Trustee LaCava

**No:** 0

**Abstain:** 0

**2nd:** Trustee Podseidlik

**Absent:** 0

XI. Adjournment

A. Adjourn the meeting at 9:52 pm

**Motion:** Carried

**Vote: Yes:** 7

**1st:** Trustee Gates

**No:** 0

**Abstain:** 0

**2nd:** Trustee Roe-Ryan

**Absent:** 0

Respectfully Submitted,

*Paula Hibbert*

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