

**LA FAYETTE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION – REGULAR MEETING  
December 17, 2015**

I. Opening

A. Call to Order - The Regular Board meeting of the LaFayette Central School District was held on Thursday, December 17th, 2015 and called to order by President Matthew Dodge at approximately 5:29pm. In attendance were Vice President Johnson, Trustees LaCava, Whitney, Scofield, Keefe and D. Dodge, Superintendent Lavine, School Business Official Turner, District Clerk Kasey McHale, and Administrators Susan Osborn, Diane Ellsworth, James Chupaila and Karen Ocque. Also in attendance were Adrian Shute, Sandra Ruffo, Jim Kesler, Janna Keefe, Anne and Bruce Wais, Tony Abbatiello, Jill Shute, John thomas Jr., Justin Polly, Gary Oelkers, Mary Ellen Long, Sean Zehner, Ed Oakman, Beverly Oakman, Connor and Nathan Oakman, John and Phyllis Kazlo, Steve Albro, Jessa Albro, Rebecca Rogers, Myia McCarthy, Molly Rogers, John Rogers, Alex Rogers, Kim Keane, Bobbi Jo Buck, Karen Hart, Alexis Manley, John Vossler, Nancy Hummel, Maria Nastasi, Joe Fox, Sue Bang, Jennifer Jackowski, Colton Keane, John Mangellow, Anne Courtwright, Jack Ramie, Christine Ramie, Bret Ramie, Christina Shute, Erin Oristian, Karen Mongellow, Kyle Breed, Shaleen Breed, Joyce Lewis, Ariel Hoxie, Robin O’Kane, Bill O’Leary, Sean Baker, Lisa Shenandoah-Kurtz, Thomas Kurtz, Kevin Morel, Denise Dodge, Ann Schaefer, Maria Brothers, Christine Baker, Stacy Peios, Cindi Comions, Sue Bush, Donald Bush, Dan Comins, Christine Cromley, Toni Gary, Awhenjiosta Myers, and John Schaefer.

B. Pledge of Allegiance - led by President Dodge

C. Opening Remarks - President Dodge thanked all for coming to the meeting and asked for a motion to enter into a brief executive session to discuss student discipline. A motion was made by Trustee LaCava, and seconded by Trustee Scofield at approximately 5:32pm.

**Vote: Yes: 7 No: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 0**

A motion was made to reconvene into Open Session by Trustee Keefe, and seconded by Trustee LaCava at approximately 5:50pm.

**Vote: Yes: 7 No: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 0**

President Dodge thanked all for their patience and announced they would start the meeting by addressing the issue from earlier in the day regarding an article that was posted online about a former student’s Facebook post. Superintendent Lavine indicated that a lot of communication had been happening since the article was first posted and since she had been made aware of it. She then gave a timeline of events leading to the article, which included her first becoming aware of the Facebook post and her call to law enforcement on Saturday, October 3rd. The following Monday, Ms. Lavine was notified by law enforcement that their investigation concluded that no further action on the part of the District was in order. No mention was made of a continuing investigation or possible arrest. That was her last official notification regarding the matter. Two and half months later she was notified that an arrest had been made. She indicated that the headline of the article was misleading and the bathroom in which the former student photographed himself is not on LaFayette school grounds, contrary to what was published.

Public discussion took place regarding how the situation was handled, including questions regarding safety in the District. Some members of the public questioned why they were not informed when the

post was made, and asked if staff members had been threatened in the posting. President Dodge reiterated the steps that had been taken once the posting was shared with Superintendent Lavine. No reference in the post was made to District students or staff. Public questions and comments continued with concerns and questions directed at the Superintendent and the Board of Education. At 6:20pm, President Dodge requested a motion to end the meeting. A motion was made by Trustee Scofield, and seconded by Trustee Whitney. President Dodge left the meeting.

Vice President Johnson addressed the public by saying that he would like to end the public discussion for this meeting, but that the Board would develop an action plan and prepare additional time for the public to speak at their next scheduled meeting on January 14th, 2016. Discussion turned to the topic of bullying at the Jr/Sr High School. Superintendent Lavine indicated that Principal Chupaila addresses any incidents of bullying or other violations of the code of conduct when he is made aware of them. Other public concerns were expressed regarding past bullying incidents in the District allegedly being ignored by Administration. A Jr/Sr High School teacher expressed his concern over new students at the High School who had previous issues with a male teacher and his concern that the staff was not made aware. A second teacher agreed, indicated that he and other male teachers should have been made aware of these incoming students.

At 6:39pm, Vice President Johnson announced the meeting was still in open session, as a vote had not been made to conclude the meeting. He also stated that he wanted to encourage the members of the public to come to Board meetings to express concerns or ask questions.

Discussion continued regarding hall monitors and cafeteria monitors. Several students shared that they had been bullied and did not agree with how it was handled. Further discussion took place about supervision and student management. Someone suggest that the District needs to bring the community together and that students need to be decent to each other. Someone else shared a concern about students being afraid to report bullying due to possible retaliation and disagreement with how bullying has been handled.

A staff member asked the Board if the subject of online courses would be discussed at this meeting because that is why she was there. Vice President Johnson responded that it was unlikely other agenda items would be discussed and that they would be rescheduled. The staff member stated she had concerns regarding online classes being offered.

Someone suggested a system which lets teachers between buildings know of issues among students, especially students leaving 6th grade and entering 7th. A high school teacher responded that there is no such system in place and that it has been discouraged in the past for teachers to discuss incoming 7th grade students. (Note: Subsequent to this meeting, Principal Blossey shared that she, the 6th and 7th grade teachers met at the beginning of the school year to share information with the 7th grade team, including the special area teachers, about incoming 7th graders). Some members of the public returned to the topic of the Facebook posting and asked more questions and shared strong opinions. A community member asked that since an investigation was going on, when is a legal time that it can be discussed when it involves a minor. Superintendent Lavine reiterated that she was unaware of any investigation, but since an arrest has since been made, the case is public.

A teacher stated that she was told about this matter by a sheriff in October and questioned why the staff was not informed by the District. Superintendent Lavine reiterated that she was not informed of any investigation. Trustee Scofield stated that law enforcement was told immediately about the posting, which followed the proper process to inform law enforcement so they can determine whether or not there is a threat. Discussion then took place about security in the buildings. Some community

members reported that the sports door at the High School is not locked after dismissal and after 2:30pm the doors at Grimshaw are open. Trustee Scofield indicated that this would be explored. Trustee Scofield left the meeting at 7:13pm.

Two people in the audience asked if a similar situation were to happen again, would it be handled differently. Superintendent Lavine indicated that based on feedback from the community, it would be handled differently. At 7:22pm, Vice President Johnson stated that public communication would cease, and the Board will move on to the agenda for the meeting.

## II. Approval of Minutes

### A. Regular Minutes - November 19, 2015

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the Regular Board meeting on November 19, 2015 by Trustee LaCava, and seconded by Trustee D. Dodge.

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

## III. District Presentation and Reports

### A. Presentations and Recognition - **To be rescheduled.**

1. Recognition of Connor Oakman
2. Sandra Ruffo, NYSSBA Area 4 Director
3. Janna Keefe/Margaret Colella, BOCES Online Courses

### B. Oral Communications-Board Member Updates - None.

## IV. Old Business - None

## V. New Business

### A. Roll Call Vote - Bus Bond Resolution ML/JK

A motion to the approve the adoption of the Bus Bond Resolution was made by Trustee LaCava and seconded by Trustee Keefe.

Matthew Dodge, President	Voting <u>Absent</u>
Mark Johnson, Vice President	Voting <u>Yes</u>
Don Dodge	Voting <u>Yes</u>
Jim Keefe	Voting <u>Yes</u>
Michael LaCava	Voting <u>Yes</u>
Tom Scofield	Voting <u>Absent</u>
Mark Whitney	Voting <u>Yes</u>
Freida Jacques	Voting <u>Non-Voting Representative/Absent</u>

VI. Superintendent's Report-None

VII. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Board Action Items

1. Afterschool Program Agreement
2. SmartSchools Bond Act Investment Plan
3. Private School Transportation Request
4. ERS Resolution for Standard Work Days
5. 504, CSE and CPSE Recommendations
6. CNY Bread Run Donation
7. Fire Inspector Appointment
8. Treasurer's Reports - November 2015
9. Grad Hours

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda items A. 1-9 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. Resignation- Non-Instructional
2. Instructional Appointment Amendment
3. Non-Instructional Appointment
4. Substitute Teacher Appointments

Trustee Whitney asked about the substitute security guard and substitute clerical appointments. There was discussion regarding the amendment to the Teaching Assistant Instructional appointment. A motion to approve the Consent Agenda items B. 1-4 was made by Trustee LaCava and seconded by Trustee Keefe.

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

VIII. Board Non-Action Items

- A. Strategic Plan Update - To be discussed at next scheduled meeting.

IX. Communications - None

X. Calendar Review

- A. Upcoming Events - Holiday Recess for all students begins 12/24/15, High School Day of Giving 12/23/15, Students Return to the School 1/4/16, next scheduled Board meeting 1/14/16.

XI. Financial Reports - FYI

- A. Claims Auditor Report and Warrants, November 2015
- B. Financials - November 2015
- C. Cash Flow - November 2015

XII. Closing Remarks

- A. Public Communications to the Board - A member of the public stated he appreciates all that the Administration and the Board do for the students, all the communication that occurs between them and the community and wished to commend them on their leadership. He then read the Standard and Poor's statement, congratulating the District on their work, and discussed new FAFSA information for students looking at entering college. He also discussed FERPA, and how it applies to students in college, as well as the Every Student Succeeds Act. He mentioned the importance of computer science in education for all students, and thanked the Board for allowing him to speak.

XIII. Executive Session

- A. Enter Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations and employee discipline.

A motion was made to end the public session of the meeting and enter into an executive session to discuss contract negotiations and an employee discipline by Trustee LaCava, and seconded by Trustee Keefe.

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

Vice President Johnson left the meeting at 8:13 p.m.

- B. Reconvene into Open Session

A motion to reconvene into Open Session was made by Trustee LaCava and seconded by Trustee D. Dodge at approximately 8:37pm.

**Vote: Yes: 4 No: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 3 (M. Dodge, Johnson, Scofield)**

XIV. Adjournment

- A. Adjourn the Meeting

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Trustee LaCava and seconded by Trustee Keefe at approximately 8:38pm.

**Vote: Yes: 4 No: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 3 (M. Dodge, Johnson, Scofield)**

Respectfully Submitted,

Kasey McHale

District Clerk