

LA FAYETTE CENTRAL SCHOOL
LaFayette, New York 13084

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Board Meeting
February 13, 2014 Minutes

I. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the LaFayette Board of Education was held on Thursday, February 13, 2014, in the District Office Conference Room. President Scofield called the meeting to order at approximately 5:32 p.m. Present were: Trustees LaCava, Keefe, Sofranko, Akl, and Whitney. Also in attendance were Superintendent Tigh, School Business Official Nesbitt and Board Clerk Munnell. Others in attendance were: Administrators Greg Bump, Paula Cowling, and Laura Lavine; Jim Kesler, Damon Derbyshire, Simone Thornton, Chris Gray, Dan Heukrath, and Scott Perry.

II. Opening Remarks

III. Executive Session

IV. Approval of Minutes

A. Regular Minutes – January 23, 2104 - amended

Motion by Trustee LaCava, Seconded by Trustee Sofranko

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

V. District Presentations and Reports

A. Presentation:

1. ELA Curriculum Presentation by Curriculum Coordinators Simone Thornton, Gr. K-6 and Damon Derbyshire, Gr. 7-12. They showed a Powerpoint report detailing the 6 Common Core Shifts that the grade levels are teaching our students. The main points were: Balancing Information & Literary Text; Knowledge in the Disciplines; Staircase of Complexity; Text-based Answers; Writing from Sources; and Academic Vocabulary. The presentation was informative and well received by the Board.
2. Capital Project Update from Dan Heukrath and Scott Perry from Ashley McGraw Architects and Chris Gray from Turner Construction Company. They shared with the Board that they have had meetings with the administrators, teachers, students and parents over the past several weeks with a lot of pertinent input. They showed the Board by Powerpoint numerous changes from the original drawings but are still keeping within the scope of the Capital Project.

Onondaga Nation Representative Jacques arrived at 5:46 p.m.

Trustee Dodge arrived at 7:35 p.m.

B. Oral Communications

1. Community Connections: Trustee LaCava commended Board Clerk Munnell for the Senior Night Basketball Profiles. Parents and students were appreciative.
2. Boys basketball have a sectional game scheduled for Friday, February 14 at Waterville at 7:30 p.m. Good luck, Lancers!
3. Trustee Akl shared with the Board that two Big Picture students recently participated in a regional "Poetry Out Loud" competition at Onondaga Community College. Even though the students did not place to go further in the competition, they did well against schools much larger than LaFayette.

VI. Old Business

- A. Review Policy 7132-Admission of Non-Resident Students – Trustee Akl has had several conversations with other committee members but feels the need for more research. She considers the importance of fiscal responsibility to the constituents of the District.
- B. Review of School Resource Officer – Trustee LaCava cited articles and made a recommendation to form a committee to look further what the community thinks is good for LaFayette schools. Where does New York State School Boards and New York State Education Department stand? Committee members would include Trustee LaCava, Trustee Dodge, Trustee Whitney and Onondaga Nation Representative Jacques.

VII. New Business

- A. Veteran's Tax Exemption – School Business Official Nesbitt shared with the Board new legislation from Governor Cuomo regarding a veteran tax exemption for school property taxes. This is in no way a reflection on the service of the veterans but the Board has incomplete information and the District needs to get more complete information before they can move forward with a decision on the exemption. We need to be able to understand the complete picture and the impact of the decision.

VIII. Superintendent's Report

On the recommendation of Superintendent Tigh, motion by Trustee LaCava, seconded by Trustee Whitney to approve Items A 1-3:

A. Board Action Items - Consent

1. Approval of Application for Refund of School Taxes for school years 2011, 2012, and 2013
2. Approval of Maternity Leave – Instructional
3. Approval of CSE Committee Recommendations

Motion carried: Yes – 7 No – 0

On the recommendation of Superintendent Tigh, motion by Trustee LaCava, seconded by Trustee Dodge to approve Items B 1a - 2a-c:

B. Personnel

1. Resignation – 2013-2014
 - a. Instructional - #6
2. Appointment – 2013-2014
 - a. Instructional - #9
 - b. Substitute - #6
 - c. Clerical - #4

Motion carried: Yes – 7 No – 0

C. Board Non-Action Items

1. 2014-2015 Budget Update: Administrative and Capital Overview – School Business Official Nesbitt gave financial details through a Powerpoint presentation of the figures for next school year.

D. Communications

1. Letter from Assemblyman Gary Finch to Superintendent Tigh
2. Letter from HS Principal to HS Teacher: A letter from the Board to be sent to the teacher congratulating and showing their appreciation of the teacher's hard work and dedication.
3. Proposal for a NFF Division
4. Grant Submitted for Technology Assistance: Laura Lavine submitted grant – no monetary value but great technology assistance.

D. Communications - continued

5. Letter from Assemblyman Gary Finch to Superintendent Tigh
6. Letter from HS Principal to HS Teacher: A letter from the Board to be sent to the teacher congratulating and showing their appreciation of the teacher's hard work and dedication.
7. Proposal for a NFF Division
8. Grant Submitted for Technology Assistance: Laura Lavine submitted grant – no monetary value but great technology assistance.
9. GEA Resolution – Added and voted on:

On the recommendation of Superintendent Tigh, motion by Trustee LaCava, seconded by Trustee Whitney to approve GEA Resolution.

Motion carried: Yes – 7 No – 0

10. Member Jacques communicated to the Board regarding an ELA project that helps children develop their minds to learn English and ELA. The program was accepted in Akwesasne. Member Jacques is going to contact the school to learn more about the program.
11. The Board also wanted to convey their gratification to Big Picture Driver, Bobbi Jo Buck, for her professionalism in handling a recent accident.

E. Calendar Review

Board Clerk Munnell communicated to the Board the next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, February 27, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. at the District Office.

IX. Financial Reports - FYI

None

X. Request for Executive Session

On the recommendation of President Scofield, a motion to adjourn the regular meeting was made by Trustee Sofranko, seconded by Trustee LaCava to enter into Executive Session according to paragraph f of executive session by-laws at 8:55 p.m.

Motion carried: Yes – 7 No – 0

A motion to come out of Executive Session by Trustee Whitney and seconded by Trustee LaCava at approximately 11:07 p.m.

Motion carried: Yes - 7 No – 0

On the recommendation of President Scofield, a motion was made to approve a resolution for Review of Co-Curricular Code of Conduct by Trustee LaCava, seconded by Trustee Sofranko.

Motion carried: Yes – 7 No – 0

XI. Closing Remarks

A. Oral Communications

XII. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn by Trustee Dodge and seconded by Trustee Whitney at approximately 11:09 p.m.

Motion carried: Yes - 7 No – 0

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Munnell
District Clerk