

LaFayette Central School District  
Board of Education - Regular Meeting  
Location: LaFayette Jr/Sr High School - Auditorium  
3122 US Route 11 North  
LaFayette, New York 13084  
October 8, 2020

I. Opening

A. Call to Order The regular Board of Education meeting for the LaFayette Central School District was called to order at 5:35 pm by President Stephanie Dow. In attendance were Trustees J. LeBlanc, C. Dwyer, M. Walker, J. Gates, M. Whitney, Superintendent Jeremy Belfield, School Business Manager and Deputy Clerk Cindy Daley. Guests in attendance were Austin Vadala, Ed McGraw, Lauren Sloan, Jim Kesler, Tom Carter and Shawna Booth.

B. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Dow at 5:35 pm.

C. Opening Remarks - It was moved that the Capital Project Resolution on Line A6 of Consent Agenda be moved to follow the Capital Project Presentation with a roll call vote.

<b>Motion:</b> Carried	1st: J. Gates	2nd: J. LeBlanc
<b>Vote:</b> Yes: 6 No: 0	<b>Abstain:</b> 0	<b>Absent:</b> R. Reyburn

II. Approval of Minutes

A. Regular Minutes - September 24, 2020

<b>Motion:</b> Carried	1st: J. Gates	2nd: J. LeBlanc
<b>Vote:</b> Yes: 5 No: 0	<b>Abstain:</b> President Dow	<b>Absent:</b> R. Reyburn

III. District Presentations

A. Legend of Learning - John Russell- Superintendent Belfield congratulated Mr. John Russell, Maintenance Worker at LaFayette Central Schools. John has been a dedicated employee to LaFayette since 1995 and he has always been available on a moment's notice to assist with building maintenance and repairs. John will be retiring in November but will stay connected with our district as a substitute maintenance worker.

B. External Audit Report- Auditors from the Bonadio Group presented the external audit report. The auditors issued an unmodified opinion regarding district financial statements. Auditors did note a finding relative to accruals in accounts payable and budgeted numbers for a bond anticipation note. While improvements were noted in the extra classroom audit, there is still

a need to improve practices relative to requirements for student activity funds. The district will continue to work with the auditors to provide ongoing training to advisors and student officers on proper procedures.

Superintendent Belfield thanked the auditors for their presentation and for noting opportunities for improvement. The business office experienced transition in a number of key positions including the school business official position during budget development and the accounts payable office. The timing of the BAN payment will be better coordinated with our fiscal agent for future projects so that budgeted payments are properly represented in budget documents. The district will be meeting with the fiscal agent on a quarterly basis to review the status of bond payments, building aid and district borrowing. The district will continue to refine practices in accounts payable and train business office staff on year end accruals.

- C. Construction Update- Superintendent Belfield reviewed the scope for the proposed \$8.6M Capital Project. The project will feature high priority items from previous building condition surveys along with improvements to spaces utilized for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) programs. The project will also look to address air flow and add air conditioning to the second floor classrooms at Grimshaw Elementary and LaFayette Jr/Sr High School, the Big Picture Wing, and the main gymnasiums at the High School and Grimshaw. Representatives from Ashley McGraw and Turner Construction were present to answer questions from the board.

#### IV. Old Business

- A. Student Safety- The district health and safety meeting was held yesterday afternoon. Mr. Kesler reviewed the status of school emergency response plans, fire inspections, and the submission of the annual visual inspection to NYSED. The district will also be working with our safety officer to conduct lead in drinking water testing at Grimshaw Elementary and LaFayette Jr/Sr High School. Superintendent Belfield thanked LaFayette bus drivers for putting their excellent driving and navigation skills to the test during afternoon dismissal yesterday. A wind storm moved through LaFayette just prior to dismissal causing downed trees and power lines throughout the district. Bus drivers did an excellent job of adjusting routes and communicating with Mr. Cooper.
- B. Online Safety- The New York Office of the State Comptroller is recognizing October as National Cybersecurity Awareness Month with a 4-part cybersecurity on-demand webinar series for local government and school officials. Topics include: current threats, lessons from recent attacks, as well as, best practices related to: personal, private and sensitive information; IT asset inventories; policies and procedures; IT security awareness; and written IT agreements. Superintendent Belfield thanked Sean Zehner, District Data Privacy Officer, for his ongoing efforts

to make sure that training, procedures, and proper agreements with vendors are in place.

V. Communications

- A. Board Member Updates - President Dow and the trustees honored Superintendent Belfield with a Legend of Learning medallion for his efforts in effectively leading the district among other important accomplishments. An email recommending Superintendent Belfield for Legend of Learning was read and the Board thanked him for his contributions to the district.

VI. New Business -

VII. Superintendent Report

- A. Superintendent Belfield updated the board on recent efforts to work with Onondaga County to conduct COVID surveillance testing with staff members. Staff members without COVID symptoms can sign up on a voluntary basis to have COVID testing conducted by a representative from Upstate who will be visiting schools throughout the county on a rotational basis. The district is continuing to explore wastewater sampling for COVID, and is in ongoing conversations with Onondaga County and local experts from Upstate Medical University, and Syracuse University. The district is also looking to identify a funding source for the cost of the program and waiting on responses from the New York State Education Department Office of Facilities Planning.
- B. Superintendent Belfield updated the board on concerns relative to distance learning. Students and families continue to experience challenges relative to internet connectivity. High speed internet is not readily available in our district. Even for those families with access to high speed internet and for staff members in the district, we have noticed that internet speeds and connectivity can be challenging at different points throughout the day when demand is high. The district purchased over 100 hot spots for students without internet access; however, these hot spots might not work well in areas with poor cellular coverage. The district will continue to advocate with state and federal officials for improved access to high speed internet. Superintendent Belfield thanked our staff, students, and families for their continued efforts to remain connected despite these challenges.
- C. Superintendent Belfield shared an updated return to school protocol from the New York State Health Department for students showing symptoms of COVID. Symptomatic students and staff should contact their primary health care provider if they have symptoms. The health care provider will determine if the individual with symptoms needs to have a COVID test completed. The individual may then return to school when they receive a

release from the health care provider with a specific diagnosis or a negative COVID test and a diagnosis. The updated guidelines from the New York State Department of Health also require that students and staff with symptoms who are referred for COVID testing receive results within 48 hours. This new requirement is posing a challenge for testing facilities and our local health department. Superintendent Belfield thanked Onondaga County and the Central New York Association of Pediatrics for their ongoing efforts and support to our families.

- D. Superintendent Belfield and Trustee Reyburn had the chance to attend senior thesis projects for Big Picture students. Topics included music therapy for seniors, raising awareness around domestic violence and missing/exploited indigenous women, opportunities for self care, and many other topics. Superintendent Belfield thanked Mrs. Osborn, 401 advisor Jessica Giordanno, and the 401 students for all of their efforts.
- E. Superintendent Belfield thanked the LaFayette Jr/Sr High School and the Onondaga Nation School for hosting virtual open houses for families. Families were able to meet their teacher, review class expectations, and learn more about what to expect throughout the school year. Thank you to all of our students and families who participated.

#### VIII. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Board Action Items
  - 1. Budget Transfers
  - 2. CSE, CPSE, and 504 Recommendations
  - 3. Treasurer's Report - June 2020
  - 4. External audit Report for 2020-2021
  - 5. Capital Project 2018 Change Order
  - 6. Capital Project Resolution - moved out of Consent Agenda (see above)
  - 7. SEQRA Resolution
- B. Approval of Personnel
  - 1. Non-Instructional - Adjustment of Contractual Hours
  - 2. Non-Instructional Resignation
  - 3. Non-Instructional Appointment

**Motion:** Carried                      1st: J. LeBlanc                      2nd: M. Walker  
**Vote:** Yes: 6 No: 0                      **Abstain:** 0                      **Absent:** R. Reyburn

#### IX. Board Non-Action Items

- A. Strategic Plan Update- Superintendent Belfield shared that staff will participate in professional development tomorrow afternoon. Sessions will include self care for educators, IXL which is an academic intervention support, a follow up training on the new Promethean boards, and time allotted for staff to work on digital instructional materials. Superintendent

Belfield thanked the board for their ongoing support of our staff with this very important allotment of time for professional development. Superintendent Belfield also noted that the Onondaga Nation School is teaching students about the traditional teachings relative to the lunar cycle. This effort is tied to the school's comprehensive education. This month students will be learning about Jyothowéhah / Jotowehah - Return of little cold.

X. Calendar Review

A. Upcoming Events

1. October 9th - Half Day for All Students AM/ PM Professional Development
2. October 12th - No School BP/HS/GS- Columbus Day; Indigenous Peoples' Day at ONS
3. October 17th - PSAT Exam - changed from Oct. 14th due to social distancing
4. October 16th - Jyothowéhah / Jotowehah - Return of little cold
5. October 22nd - BOE Meeting 5:30 PM LaFayette Jr/Sr High School

XI. Financials - FYI

School Business Manager Daley reported on some statistical facts related to 2019-20 year end results. Revenues compared to prior year were 3% higher while compared to budget were .28% less. Expenditures compared to prior year were 7% higher and 3% higher compared to budget. Increased expenses related to BOCES, special education costs and bonding the \$5.4M project. The major focus now is to plan our next Bond for the \$3.1M project and determine the best timing for budgets and tax cap calculations. 2021-22 budget development will begin.

- A. Warrants and Claims
- B. Financials - June 2020
- C. Cash Flow - June 2020

XII. Public Comments

- A. Public Communications to the Board - No communications

XIII. Proposed Executive Session - Subject to Board Approval

- A. Enter into the Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the medical and employment history of particular individuals at 6:42 PM.

**Motion:** Carried                      1st: M. Walker                      2nd: J. Gates  
**Vote:** Yes: 6    No: 0                      **Abstain:** 0                      **Absent:** R. Reyburn

- B. Reconvene into Open Session at 8:08 PM

**Motion:** Carried                      1st: M. Walker                      2nd: J. LeBlanc  
**Vote:** Yes: 6    No: 0                      **Abstain:** 0                      **Absent:** R. Reyburn

XIV. Adjournment

A. Adjourn the Meeting at 8:08 PM.

**Motion:** Carried                      1st: J. Gates                      2nd: J. LeBlanc  
**Vote:** Yes: 6    No: 0                      **Abstain:** 0                      **Absent:** R. Reyburn

Respectfully Submitted,  
Cindy Daley  
Deputy District Clerk