

The Board of Education of LaHarpe Community School District #347 held a regular School Board meeting on 17 February 2026 in the Board room. President Dustin Detherage called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Roll call was answered by Blythe, Dowell, Burt, Detherage, Gebhardt, and Deitrich. Superintendent Gladu, Principal Ryan Hopper and Board Secretary Liz McCarter was also in attendance.

Visitors in attendance: Laura Jones

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

A Moment of Silence was observed.

Public Comment: None

Business Items:

The Consent Agenda included the approval of the agenda, Open Meeting Minutes of the 20 January 2026 Regular Board Meeting of the LaHarpe CSD 347 School. Financial Reports, Individual Fund Balances, Payment of Bills, action to delete verbatim closed session meeting records that were 18 months and older, FOIA Requests. To accept John Draws resignation effective 9 February 2026. To accept Kayla Gebhardt's resignation effective 12 February 2026.

Fund	FY 2026
Education	\$2,354,201.84
Building	\$288,285.43
Debt Services	\$109,626.04
Transportation	\$154,773.27
IMRF	\$136,693.32
Capital Projects	\$4,000,000
Working Cash	\$47,591.34
TORT Immunity	\$191,591.34
Fire Prevention & Safety	\$224,922.84
Total	\$7,507,546.95
Comparison Year	
FY 2025	\$3,588,430.55
FY 2024	\$3,848,258.27
FY 2023	\$3,109,572.87
FY 2022	\$2,765,047.59
FY 2021	\$2,515,500.31
FY 2020	\$1,348,661.07

Discussion was had regarding the minutes from the regular board meeting on January 20, 2026. The board decided to table approving the minutes until the next meeting when they are amended.

A motion was made by Blythe with a second by Gebhardt to approve the items on the Consent Agenda: Financial Reports, Individual Fund Balances, Payment of Bills, action to delete verbatim closed session meeting records that were 18 months and older, and FOIA Requests. To accept John Draws resignation

effective 9 February 2026. To accept Kayla Gebhardt's resignation effective 12 February 2026. Roll Call: Blythe- yes; Burt – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Deitrich – yes Motion Carried 6 – yay, 0 – abstain, 0 – nay, 1 – Absent: Motion Carried: 6-0.

2026-2027 Public School Calendar: Dr Gladu stated she had given the staff 5 options to vote on. She said that draft 4 was the overall pick. She stated at this time IW and Carthage do not match.

A motion was made by Dowell with a second by Detherage to approve the 2026-2027 public school calendar. Roll Call: Blythe- yes; Burt – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Deitrich – yes Motion Carried 6 – yay, 0 – abstain, 0 – nay, 1 – Absent: Motion Carried: 6-0.

March 2026 Regular Board Meeting: Dr Gladu stated that due to new statutes we need to move the March board meeting because it falls on election day.

A motion was made by Deitrich with a second by Burt to move the regular March Board of Education Meeting to March 24, 2026 at 6:00pm. Roll Call: Blythe- yes; Burt – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Deitrich – yes Motion Carried 6 – yay, 0 – abstain, 0 – nay, 1 – Absent: Motion Carried: 6-0.

IASB Training: Dr Gladu told the board she had spoken with our IASB field representative about board self-evaluation training. She stated the trainings occur in closed session and usually last about three hours. Detherage stated that he spoke with our attorney and he said he is going to recommend this training. Detherage and Blythe stated in the past these have been in person trainings they have attended.

A motion was made by Burt with a second by Dowell to schedule a meeting on March 11, 2026 at 5:00pm for the purpose of Board Self-Evaluation Training, closed session exception #14 – Self-evaluation, practices and procedures or professional ethics, when meeting with a representative of a statewide association of which the public body is a member. Roll Call: Blythe- yes; Burt – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Deitrich – no. Motion Carried 5 – yay, 0 – abstain, 1 – nay, 1 – Absent: Motion Carried: 5-1.

Reports:

Board Committee: None

Board Members: Burt asked if as a board they have ever adopted Roberts Rule of Order. There was discussion about the procedure.

Principal: Mr. Hopper reported that Mrs. Pence led Jump Rope for Heart with Sholl helping out. It went on for 2 weeks and concluded with games and activities in the gym. As a school the students raised over \$8,000. He stated that Science Olympiad will compete on February 21 at WIU. He stated that Mrs. Simmons has given up a lot of her time after school and on Sunday afternoons to help the students prepare. He said that PTO is hosting an Art Festival on March 27th and Penny Wars March 9-13th. He also said there was a Junior High Dance on January 30th that was a success. Dallas City Junior High was invited and they brought a good group. He stated that our student council and Mrs. Simmons helped to lead this.

Athletic Director: Mr. Hopper stated the only sport we have right now is Volleyball. The 7th Grade has a record of 10-4 and the 8th Grade is 1-13. He stated that the coach is always looking for ways to get the 8th grade motivated. He stated they have two home games next week, one of which being 8th grade night, then post season games begin.

Transportation: He stated there are no issues. We are lucky to have drivers and subs that are flexible and willing to cover.

Superintendent: Dr. Gladu stated that our Team Member of the Month is Jadrien VanFleet. She also said we have signed a contract with Maas. The building permit was issued on Wednesday, February 11. She stated we have several positions open, Title I and we have one applicant so far. Music we have on applicant so far, and Special Education we have one application so far. She stated the onsite solar should be here next week to start putting up the fence and the electricians are scheduled to be here in the same time frame. She also stated that our QNS contract as well as our farm land lease with Ryan Wilhite is up next month.

A motion was made by Dowell with a second by Blythe to adjourn to closed session at 7:01pm to discuss items per 5 ILCS 120/2/(c)(1). The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District and (15) closed session minutes. Roll Call: Blythe- yes; Burt – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Deitrich – yes Motion Carried 6 – yay, 0 – abstain, 0 – nay, 1 – Absent: Motion Carried: 6-0.

A motion was made by Burt with a second by Detherage to approve the closed session minutes from January 20, 2026. Roll Call: Blythe- yes; Burt – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Deitrich – yes Motion Carried 6 – yay, 0 – abstain, 0 – nay, 1 – Absent: Motion Carried: 6-0.

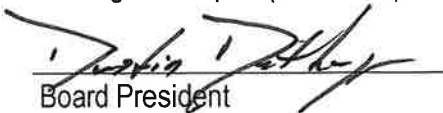
A motion was made by Blythe with a second by Burt to rehire Courtney Painter, Rebecca Huston, and Aubrey Porter as tenured certified staff members. Roll Call: Blythe- yes; Burt – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Deitrich – yes Motion Carried 6 – yay, 0 – abstain, 0 – nay, 1 – Absent: Motion Carried: 6-0.

A motion was made by Dowell with a second by Detherage to rehire Tori Taylor as a 2nd year non-tenured certified staff member. Roll Call: Blythe- yes; Burt – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Deitrich – yes Motion Carried 6 – yay, 0 – abstain, 0 – nay, 1 – Absent: Motion Carried: 6-0.

A motion was made by Gebhardt with a second by Blythe to rehire Kevin Mershon as the boys' basketball head coach for the 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 school years. Roll Call: Blythe- yes; Burt – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Deitrich – yes Motion Carried 6 – yay, 0 – abstain, 0 – nay, 1 – Absent: Motion Carried: 6-0.

A motion was made by Dowell with a second by Detherage to rehire Brittany Teesdale as the head volleyball coach for the 2026-2027 school year. Roll Call: Blythe- yes; Burt – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Deitrich – yes Motion Carried 6 – yay, 0 – abstain, 0 – nay, 1 – Absent: Motion Carried: 6-0.

A motion was made by Detherage with a second by Dowell to adjourn the February 17, 2026 board meeting at 7:19pm. (voice vote)


Board President


Board Secretary

3-24-26
Date Approved

