

The Board of Education of LaHarpe Community School District #347 held a regular School Board meeting on 19 November 2024 in the Board room. President Dustin Detherage called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Roll call was answered by Allen, Blythe, Collins, Deitrich, Detherage, Gebhardt, and Walker. Superintendent Janet Gladu, Board Secretary Shelly Rahn, and Principal Ryan Hopper were also in attendance.

Visitors in attendance were Melissa Burt, Chad Burt, Julie Garrison, Cathy Jones, Randy Shumaker, and architect Jacques Reynolds.

A Moment of Silence was observed.

Public Presentation: No public presentations.

Business Items:

Consent Agenda: The Consent Agenda included the Open Meeting Minutes of the 15 October 2024 Regular Board Meeting of the LaHarpe CSD 347 School Board as well as the 7 November 2024 Athletic Committee Minutes, Financial Reports, Individual Fund Balances, Payment of Bills, and action to delete the verbatim closed session meeting recordings that were 18 months and older.

Individual Fund Balances listed below reflect transactions through 31 October 2024:

<b>Fund</b>	<b>FY 2025</b>
Education	\$2,697,847.57
Building	\$328,341.98
Debt Services	\$302,007.95
Transportation	\$183,444.85
IMRF	\$128,790.07
Capital Projects	\$0
Working Cash	\$179,091.95
TORT Immunity	\$187,091.82
Fire Prevention & Safety	\$258,215.23
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,264,831.42</b>

A motion was made by Collins with a second by Blythe to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Roll Call: Allen – yes; Blythe – yes; Collins- yes; Deitrich – yes; Detherage – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Walker – yes. Motion Carried 7-0.

Architects: Architechnics presented estimated costs to repair/update current cafeteria thus applying to ISBE to utilize Health Life Safety Funding/Bonds to finance the project. The cost to repair/updates the current cafeteria to 2024 building codes is an estimated \$1,789,376.00. Architechnics presented updated information related to asbestos testing with the hopes of having final asbestos reports by the December 2024 meeting. Through discussion, the board elected to not pursue utilizing Health Life Safety funds to update/repair the cafeteria addition.

Funding for Building Addition Architechnics along with the Board discussed options for financing the proposed cafeteria addition. Through discussion, the Board directed Superintendent Gladu to place a resolution on the December 2024 agenda to place a referendum on the 1 April 2025 ballot for the purpose of issuing General Obligation Bonds.

Crosswalk for Building Addition Superintendent Gladu informed the Board that Maintenance Director Michael Siegfried had proposed, along with the cafeteria addition construction to move the location of the crosswalk to the west side of the main building. This would require IDOT approval and would need to be started as soon as possible, once project has final approval.

Athletic Co-op: Superintendent Gladu and Principal Hopper presented the updated 2025-2027 Athletic Co-Op with Dallas-City. Principal Hopper pointed out the few minor changes – including parameters for tryouts allowing younger students to play at higher grade levels. The co-op agreement also allows 4<sup>th</sup> graders to participate in 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade athletics. Superintendent Gladu stated that Dallas City's Athletic Committee asked that we consider splitting sports by sport, not grade.

A motion was made by Gebhardt with a second by Walker to approve the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 Athletic Co-Op Agreement between La Harpe Community School District and Dallas Elementary School district. Roll Call: Allen – yes; Blythe – yes; Collins- yes; Deitrich – yes; Detherage – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Walker – yes. Motion Carried 7-0.

IESA Volleyball Principal Hopper discussed that the Athletic Co-Op Agreement for Volleyball expired in the 2023-2024 school year. Principal Hopper recommended approving a three-year agreement for Volleyball, which would align with the new Athletic Co-Op agreement.

A motion was made by Allen with a second by Blythe to approve the IESA Volleyball Co-Op agreement through June 2027.

CFST (1% Sales Tax) Superintendent Gladu presented the Resolution to place the CFST (1% Sales Tax) on the 1 April 2025 Election Ballot. A motion was made by Blythe with a second by Collins to disapprove the Resolution directing the Regional Superintendent of Schools for the County of Hancock, Illinois, to certify the County Clerk of said County the question of imposing a retailers' occupation tax and a service occupation tax to be used exclusively for school facility purposes, school resource officers, and mental health professionals, for submission to the electors of said County as the consolidated election to be held on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of April 2025. Roll Call: Allen – yes; Blythe – yes; Collins- yes; Deitrich – yes; Detherage – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Walker – yes. Motion Carried 7-0.

FFA Land Plot – Farm Lease Extension: Superintendent Gladu stated that the district's farm lease with Ryan Wilhite expired this season. Trajectory (community solar) anticipates construction on the plot will begin in 2027. President Detherage recommended we extend the lease through October 2026. A motion was made by Collins with a second by Detherage to approve the extension of the FFA farm plot lease with Ryan Wilhite through October 2026 for the amount of \$3,415 per year. Roll Call: Allen – yes; Blythe – yes; Collins- yes; Deitrich – yes; Detherage – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Walker – yes. Motion Carried 7-0.

Homeland Security SITE Visit Superintendent Gladu shared that Steve Lyddon, Protective Security Advisor with US Dept. of Homeland Security, LaHarpe Police Chief Rosson, Illinois State Police Assistant Chief Terry Woods, and Hancock County Emergency Services & Disaster Agency Director Jeffrey Totten conducted a site assessment of LaHarpe Schools, free of charge. Steve Lyddon praised LaHarpe Schools for reaching out to CISA (Homeland Security) for the assessment, our relationship with area emergency responder agencies, our Emergency Action Plans, drills, door locks, keycards, and camera systems.

MOU with LaHarpe LEA for Ticket Takers Superintendent Gladu presented a MOU with the LEA to increase the amount the district pays ticket takers, score keepers, time keepers, and moderators from \$25.00 per event/game to \$45.00 per event/game to align with minimum wage guidelines. A motion was made by Allen with a second by Deitrich to approve the MOU with LaHarpe LEA to amend Item 6.6, and increase the amount from \$25.00 per event to \$45.00 per event. Roll Call: Allen – yes; Blythe – yes; Collins- yes; Deitrich – yes; Detherage – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Walker – yes. Motion Carried 7-0.

Playground Equipment The board discussed possible playground seating items. Due to weather restraints, the board elected to wait until Spring 2025 to continue discussion on possible additions to the seating on the playgrounds.

Policy Updates: Superintendent Gladu presented 1<sup>st</sup> read policy updates, as presented by IASB PRESS services.

School Report Card 2023-2024 Standardized Test Scores Superintendent Gladu shared that LaHarpe was one of 300 schools, out of 3,977 school in the state that had an increase on Standardized Test Scores. Superintendent Gladu and Principal Hopper shared goals that had been achieved over the last 2 school years: adding fully certified staff in 4<sup>th</sup> grade, 5-8<sup>th</sup> ELA, 5-8<sup>th</sup> Math, 5-8<sup>th</sup> Science, and 5-8<sup>th</sup> Social Science, adopting new curriculum in math, ELA, science, Health, Civics, and social science. The district's overall Summative Designation is Commendable. The district's Chronic Absenteeism went from 29.2% in 2022-2023 to 10.8% (state average is 26.3%) in 2023-2024. The overall student growth percentile was 44.2%ile in ELA and 41.2%ile in Math.

Staff Appreciation: The board discussed possible ways to show their appreciation to the staff for diligently striving to meet and achieving academic growth goals. President Detherage asked Superintendent Gladu to survey the staff of ideas/things they would like as a sign of appreciation and present said findings at the December 2024 board meeting.

2024 Tax Levy Superintendent Gladu presented the 2024 Tax Levy. The levy is a 4.999% increase from the 2023 Tax Levy. The overall tax levy is a \$0.00373 decrease or a 0.11815% decrease from the 2023 Tax levy. A motion was made by Gebhardt with a second by Blythe to approve the 2024 Tax Levy. Roll Call: Allen – yes; Blythe – yes; Collins- yes; Deitrich – yes; Detherage – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Walker – yes. Motion Carried 7-0.

2025 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion Date Superintendent Gladu recommended either Thursday, May 15, 2025 at 6 pm or Friday, May 16, 2025 at 6 pm for the 2025 8<sup>th</sup> grade promotion ceremony. A motion was made by Collins with a second by Detherage to approve May 16, 2025 at 6 pm for the 2025 8<sup>th</sup> grade promotion ceremony. Roll Call: Allen – yes; Blythe – yes; Collins- yes; Deitrich – yes; Detherage – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Walker – yes. Motion Carried 7-0.

Used Passenger Bus Superintendent Gladu presented the quote for a used 2022 Bluebird gasoline 71-passenger bus in the amount of \$92,500. President Detherage shared the cost savings of purchasing a used bus in lieu of buying a 2<sup>nd</sup> new bus. A motion was made by Allen with a second by Dietrich to approve the purchase of a used 2022 Blue Bird, 71-passenger conventional bus in the amount of \$92,500. Roll Call: Allen – yes; Blythe – yes; Collins- yes; Deitrich – yes; Detherage – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Walker – yes. Motion Carried 7-0.

Used Mini-Van President Detherage shared that the district's current mini van has 160,000 miles and requested the board consider replacing it with a new (used) van. President Detherage asked the board to approve the purchase of a new (used) van up to \$42,000. The selected vehicle would be shared with all board members for comments, prior to purchase. A motion was made by Collins with a second by Blythe to approve the purchase of a used mini-van up to \$42,000. Roll Call: Allen – yes; Blythe – yes; Collins- yes; Deitrich – yes; Detherage – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Walker – yes. Motion Carried 7-0.

Working Cash Abatement Superintendent Gladu presented a Working Cash Abatement in the amount of \$138,000 to pay for the used 2022 Bluebird 71-passenger conventional bus as well as the purchase of a used mini-van. The funds would move from Working Cash to Transportation. A motion was made by Gebhardt with a second by Allen to approve the Working Cash Abatement in the amount of \$138,000. Roll Call: Allen – yes; Blythe – yes; Collins- yes; Deitrich – yes; Detherage – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Walker – yes. Motion Carried 7-0.

Reports to the Board: Principal Hopper presented/reported on Transportation updates, Grandparents' Day, Halloween Parade/Trick-or-Treat (PTO), Halloween Dance, Veterans Day, Food Drive, Donut Party, Boys/Girls Basketball Season, and the La Harpe Family Restaurant Attendance incentive. Superintendent Gladu presented on School Board Appreciation month, October Team Member of the Month – Wayne Garrison, AG in the Classroom Grant Recipient – Rebecca Huston, and Illinois Science Olympiad Registration Grant Recipient – Amy Simmons.

Motion to adjourn to closed session at 7:10 pm to discuss items per 5 ILCS 120/2/(c)(1). The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District, (8) Security Procedures & School building safety, (13) Board self-evaluation, and (14) closed minutes. Motion made by Allen with a second by Gebhardt to adjourn to closed session. Roll Call: Allen – yes; Blythe – yes; Collins- yes; Deitrich – yes; Detherage – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Walker – yes. Motion Carried 7-0.

Motion made by Detherage to call closed session to order at 7:17 pm on 19 November 2024. Roll Call: Allen – yes; Blythe – yes; Collins- yes; Deitrich – yes; Detherage – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Walker – yes. Motion Carried 7-0.

Motion made by Allen to adjourn the 19 November 2024 closed session meeting at 8:18 pm. Roll Call: Allen – yes; Blythe – yes; Collins- yes; Deitrich – yes; Detherage – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Walker – yes. Motion Carried 7-0.

Motion by Blythe with a second by Detherage to return to open session at 8:20 pm. Roll Call: Allen – yes; Blythe – yes; Collins- yes; Deitrich – yes; Detherage – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Walker – yes. Motion Carried 7-0.

Motion by Detherage with a second by Allen to approve the closed session minutes from 15 October 2024. Roll Call: Allen – yes; Blythe – yes; Collins- yes; Deitrich – yes; Detherage – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Walker – yes. Motion Carried 7-0.

Motion by Blythe with a second by Collins to approve Superintendent Gladu's evaluation for the 2024-2025 school year and be rated as excellent. Roll Call: Allen – yes; Blythe – yes; Collins- yes; Deitrich – yes; Detherage – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Walker – yes. Motion Carried 7-0.

Motion by Blythe with a second by Collins to approve Superintendent Gladu's contract extension and salary increases through 30 June 2030, with salary increases of 4% for the 2025-2026 school year, 4% for the 2026-2027 school year, 5% for the 2027-2028 school year, 5% for the 2028-2029 school year and 5% for the 2029-2030 school year. Roll Call: Allen – yes; Blythe – yes; Collins- yes; Deitrich – yes; Detherage – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Walker – yes. Motion Carried 7-0.

Motion by Detherage with a second by Deitrich to adjourn the 19 November 2024 board meeting at 8:22 pm. Roll Call: Allen – yes; Blythe – yes; Collins- yes; Deitrich – yes; Detherage – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Walker – yes. Motion Carried 7-0.



Shelley Rahn December 17, 2024