

The Board of Education of LaHarpe Community School District #347 held a regular School Board meeting on 20 May 2025 in the Board room. President Dustin Detherage called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Roll call was answered by Dowell, Blythe, Burt, Gebhardt, Detherage, and Walker. Deitrich was absent. Superintendent Janet Gladu, Board Secretary Liz McCarter, and Principal Ryan Hopper were also in attendance.

Visitors in attendance were, Melissa Burt, Jonah Burt, Josie Thomas, Niki Pence, Courtney Painter, Laura Wilhite, Brian Covert, Jason Siegworth, Jacques Reynolds from Architechnics, Tim from Kings Financial, and Kayin Bruce from Entrust.

A Moment of Silence was observed.

Public Comment: There was no indication on the sign in sheet that anyone from the public wanted to speak.

Business Items:

The Consent Agenda included the Open Meeting Minutes of the 15 April 2025 Regular Board Meeting of the LaHarpe CSD 347 School, 21 April 2025 Special Meeting Minutes, 24 April 2025 Special Meeting Minutes, April Financial Reports, Individual Fund Balances, Payment of Bills, and action to delete the verbatim closed session meeting recordings that were 18 months and older. FOIA Requests, Serious Safety route on Timberview Drive and North 2nd Street.

Individual Fund Balances (chart below)

Fund	FY 2025
Education	\$2,420,852.32
Building	\$338,995.81
Debt Services	\$108,637.22
Transportation	\$158,542.63
IMRF	\$62,677.76
Capital Projects	\$0
Working Cash	\$42,541.78
TORT Immunity	\$187,387.45
Fire Prevention & Safety	\$258,358.86
Total	\$3,577,993.83
Annual Change	-6% (increase of \$34,855.17 from last month)
Comparison Year	
FY 2024	\$3,807,231.26
FY 2023	\$2,916,933.17
FY 2022	\$2,527,407.38
FY 2021	\$2,220,128.78
FY 2020	\$1,484,190.54
FY 2019	\$1,161,070.86

A motion was made by Gebhardt with a second by Walker to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda: Regular Minutes from April 15, 2025 and Special Minutes from April 21, 24, 2025, financial reports, payment of bills, and the deletion of verbatim closed session recordings older than 18 months, FOIA requests, and the Serious Safety Hazardous Route on Timberview Drive and North 2nd Street. Roll Call: Blythe – yes; Burt- yes; Gebhardt – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Walker – yes; Deitrich - Absent. Motion Carried 6-0.

Science Olympiad – Mrs. Simmons was unable to attend to update the board on the State Meet.

Art Fair – Superintendent Gladu invited Jadrien VanFleet, Josie Thomas, and Courtney Painter to come share about the Art Fair. It was very well attended and received by the public. About \$3,000 was raised at the festival. All of the students had a piece that sold or was sponsored by someone. Superintendent Gladu thanked PTO and let them know how much the school appreciates them and all they do.

Resolution for Authorization for Fortress Bank Signatories: Superintendent Gladu stated that we are adding Ryan Hopper to the Student Activity Account. All other accounts are the same. This would allow Ryan to sign checks for the Student Activity Account (only this account).

A motion was made by Blythe with a second by Gebhardt to approve the Corporate Authorization for Fortress Bank adding Ryan Hopper as a bank signatories. Roll Call: Blythe – yes; Burt- yes; Gebhardt – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Walker – yes; Deitrich - Absent. Motion Carried 6-0.

District Check Signers: Superintendent Gladu stated that we currently have one account that requires two signatures. The rest of the district's accounts/checks only require one signature. It is her recommendation to require two "wet" signatures on all checks. This adds an extra additional layer of security for the district, which the auditors suggest every year. This change would impact our Imprest and Student Activity accounts.

A motion was made by Burt with a second by Gebhardt to require two wet signatures on all district accounts: Regular Account, Imprest Account, and Student Activity Account. Roll Call: Blythe – yes; Burt- yes; Gebhardt – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Walker – yes; Deitrich - Absent. Motion Carried 6-0.

Entrust: Superintendent Gladu provided the board with documents from Entrust. Two of the documents need board approval. They have been okayed by the attorney. Kalyn with Entrust was at the board meeting. She explained the Estoppel and Consent. She talked about the financing on their side of things. They are hoping to start next week and finish the last week of June.

A motion was made by Blythe with a second by Detherage to approve the Estoppel and Consent to Assignments between LaHarpe Community School District #347 and Decorah Bank and Trust Company, an Iowa banking corporation and SUT XIII, LLC, and Iowa limited liability company. Roll Call: Blythe – yes; Burt- yes; Gebhardt – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Walker – yes; Deitrich - Absent. Motion Carried 6-0.

Easement Agreement- Superintendent Gladu gave a copy of the Easement Agreement. Kalyn from Entrust gave and update on financing and plans for the project. The Easement needs board approval.

A motion was made by Gebhardt with a second by Walker to approve the Easement Agreement, Exhibit D – grant of exclusive thirty-one-year easement between LaHarpe Community School District and SUT XIII, LLC. Roll Call: Blythe – yes; Burt- yes; Gebhardt – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Walker – yes; Deitrich - Absent. Motion Carried 6-0.

Cafeteria Addition - Jacques with Architechnics was at the meeting to give an update and talked about plans. The board was given a copy of the contract that has been approved by both legal counsel (our attorney as well as Architechnics). He hopes to be back next month with a design report and cost

Bus #8 – Superintendent Gladu stated that Bus #8 is ready to be disposed of. It is a diesel, 71 passenger Freightliner bus with approximately 70,000 miles.

A motion was made by Gebhardt with a second by Blythe to grant the Superintendent permission to seek bids to sell Bus #8, the 71 passenger Freightliner bus. Roll Call: Blythe – yes; Burt- yes; Gebhardt – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Walker – yes; Deitrich - Absent. Motion Carried 6-0.

Reports:

Board Committee – Nothing to report

Board Members – Burt asked if we were going to go back to public comment. Detherage replied that no one had indicated on the sign in sheet that they wanted to speak. There was one visitor, Jonah Burt, who stated that he did want to speak. Detherage allowed him to speak. Jonah Burt said he was there to speak about his mother Melissa. Chad Burt wanted to know if someone on staff can tell the public why she was not rehired? Detherage stated that it is in the resolution which is a public document, so yes. He said that he is glad to see that choir would be offered again since it hasn't been and wanted to know the reason for that. Hopper stated that we are not splitting the 8th grade class this year and we are adding a new life skills class.

Public Comment - Jonah Burt then spoke about his mom. He talked about the JH band/music concert and how good it was. He said the band was excellent. His mom gave a speech and it was really good, she even got a standing ovation. A few kids and parents from the audience brought up flowers and gave hugs. He brought up a concern about last board meeting and how public comments were handled. He wanted to know if we have a board policy about how public comments are handled. Detherage stated that as a board they need to protect their employees. The board has no control over what people were going to say if they were negative or positive comments. Detherage stated that under the privacy act they had to try to protect their employee from potential negative comments. Jonah then asked about the hiring process and asked why it was kept secret that they hired a specific person already for the music position. He wanted to know why they didn't come out and say that instead of just saying a certified staff member. Detherage stated that this person has credentials in several different areas and we could use him for any of those positions. When the school hires staff members the position is not specific. Jonah stated that all of the people that attended the last meeting were there to speak on behalf of his mom to try to get her job back. He said that the board should not have made them go into closed session because all the people there wanted to hear everyone else's comments. Detherage stated that if they are there to speak to the board it shouldn't matter if they are in open or closed session to speak to the board. He stated that he can take the board to closed session whenever he wants. Jonah stated that a board member asked Marlie for a copy of what she read at the last board meeting, she said she sent it and never got a response from any board member. Several board members stated they had responded to Mrs. Deeter's email. He thanked the board for their time. Chad Burt then asked if we have a board policy for public comments. He asked if someone could show him. Chad Burt then stated that he read in a publication from the Illinois Association of School Board that "a public body also cannot require a member of the public to make a public comment concerning the performance of a specific employee in closed session rather than open session. Similarly, the PAC has warned that a public body likely cannot prohibit comments on personal matters." Dowell stated that as new board members they are supposed to be provided a copy. Detherage stated that they can look them up online just like everyone else. They have access to everything he does. Detherage stated that on the matter of the public comments and Burt's wife the board attempted to do what they thought was best for the employee and for the school. Dowell stated that in their OMA training they should get a copy of the board

estimates. Dowell asked him if tariffs affect cost and the bids are over budget what is his plan. He said that we would scratch the bids and get new ones. In August he hopes to come back with a design development report. In December he wants to come back to bring bids to consider.

Motion by Blythe with a second by Gebhardt to approve the AIA Document B101 2017, Standard Form of Agreement Between Owner and Architect, including the addition and deletions report included in the agreement. Roll Call: Blythe – yes; Burt- yes; Gebhardt – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Walker – yes; Deitrich - Absent. Motion Carried 6-0.

Kings Financial- Tim from Kings Financial was at the meeting to go through the timeline with the board and answer any questions. Superintendent Gladu stated we will hold a public meeting before we issue any bonds. Tim discussed the bond repayment 20-year vs 25 year is something that the board will need to decide. Superintendent Gladu stated that we have two more rounds of maintenance grants before this will begin. Detherage stated that the board has planned on using the Johnson money towards these costs as well.

2025-2031 Savvas Science Curriculum for grades K-2 and McGraw Hill Science for grades 3-5-

Superintendent Gladu stated that the curriculum team met numerous times (this team is all the elementary teachers and 5th grade Science teacher and paid \$40 per meeting from grant funds). The curriculum committee joined the last meeting to select the K-5 science curriculum (6th-8th grade science curriculum was previously approved). The team selected Savvas for grades K-2 and McGraw Hill for grades 3-5. This would be a six-year adoption. The quote for all 6 years is \$21,683.23. We have a current grant that will cover \$10,000 of this total. The remaining \$11,786.23 would be covered under General State Aid (EBF) and shown on next years budget.

A motion was made by Blythe with a second by Detherage to approve Savvas Elevate Science as the K-2nd grade adopted curriculum for the 2025-2026 through 2030-2031 school years. Roll Call: Blythe – yes; Burt- yes; Gebhardt – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Walker – yes; Deitrich - Absent. Motion Carried 6-0.

2025-2031 Social Studies Curriculum- Same as above, our team was the same (everyone except Mr. Hincks attended and Mrs. Simmons did not) and met numerous times to elect a Social Studies Curriculum. The team selected McGraw Hill Impact Social Studies for grades K-2, McGraw Hill Middle School US History, McGraw Hill Middle School World History. The team selected Savvas myWorld Interactive for grades 3-5. The quote is for all 6 years and the total is \$31,718.70. We have a current grant that will cover \$18,000 of this amount. The remaining \$13,718.70 will come from next year's budget. The concludes the current round of curriculum adoption. Our next adoption will be 2030 for middle school science, K-8 ELA and K-8 Math.

A motion was made by Dowell with a second by Walker to approve the Savvas myWorld grades 3-5 Social Studies Curriculum, McGraw Hill Impact Social Studies grades K-2 Social Studies Curriculum, McGraw Hill Middle School World History for grades 5-8 as adopted Social Studies curriculum for the 2025-2026 through 2030-2031 school years. Roll Call: Blythe – yes; Burt- yes; Gebhardt – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Walker – yes; Deitrich - Absent. Motion Carried 6-0.

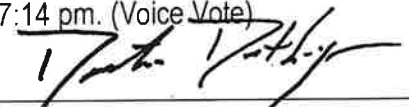
Policy Updates- Superintendent Gladu stated that there are a lot of policy updates this time. A majority of them relate to the federal regulations that require us to return to 2020 Title IX procedures.

policies, they want to know rules. Gladu stated that she would print the policies for any board member that wanted them, they are 5 binders but she would print them. She asked each board member if they wanted a copy and they all said no. Dowell said she would read it online.

Principal/Transportation Director/Athletic Director – Hopper talked about JH Athletic/Academic Awards night. He said it was very well attended. The athletic awards took about 30 minutes and the academic ones took about an hour. The teachers put in a lot of work to make it special for the kids. They handed out medals and certificates for the academic awards and the kids loved that. The elementary awards program was during the day and it was shorter but a great program. Certificates and medals were handed out at this program as well. There are 60 kids signed up the basketball camp that the school hosts in the summer. The PTO summer sendoff was a huge hit. Josie Thomas had to do a lot of last-minute changes because of weather but it all went over very well with the students and staff. Field day is coming up this week and it will be indoors as well. AIMS web testing is done. There was a lot of growth. Students that need some extra work were identified. 4th quarter incentives the JH went to Fun City and the Elementary students went to Ball Fore. 80% of the students got to go. Friday will be 8th grade promotion.

Superintendent – Superintendent Gladu stated that she needs to know if any board members plan on attending the III Conference. Staff member of the year will be announced Friday at the staff meeting. April staff member of the month was Wayne Humphrey.

A motion was made by Detherage with a second by Gebhardt to adjourn the May 2025 board meeting at 7:14 pm. (Voice Vote)


Board President


Board Secretary