

The Board of Education of La Harpe Community School District #347 held a special meeting December 13, 2011 in the school district library. President Cindy Wear called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

Roll Call was answered by Nate Butler, Willo Carpenter, Pam Campbell, Rex Huston, Mark Irish, Darren Spangler, and Cindy Wear. Supt. Jo Campbell and Board Sec. Jeanne Clayton were also in attendance.

Transportation for FY2013: Dr. Campbell began by summarizing the transportation meetings to date and presented the board copies of the letter from Illini West requesting that transportation for the high school be continued for one more year in order for other options to be explored during that time.

Dr. Campbell reviewed all the steps that La Harpe, Dallas and Illini West staffs have taken to anticipate the cost accurately, and that the figures do not appear to be a significant increase. Dr. Campbell noted that the State is undecided as to the percentage of transportation reimbursement, but that State funding will continue to be an issue for all districts regardless of the configuration of busing, and that the new route data points to greater efficiency for all districts. Irish stated that the IW board's main concern is that busing could hinder IW's bond issue. It was discussed that the main two things that would affect the high school's referendum would be location of the building and what it would do to the tax levy.

Every La Harpe board member participated in a thorough discussion of transportation including following: the positive rapport and working relationship with Illini West superintendent and staff as we relate daily on transportation issues; the benefits of shortened student ride time, maintaining control of school start and end times, snow days, and school calendar; the La Harpe board's unanimous decision in April to discontinue the transportation agreement with Illini West; the positive impact that later pick-up times will have on IW and La Harpe elementary students; the steps being taken to help IW with route planning and driver procurement; the positive public perception of smaller, fuller buses running on the routes next year; and the initial reasons for temporarily helping the high school district with busing in the first few years of the convergence. The board also discussed that the IW staff will benefit from increased knowledge of the location of student residences, LH and DC students' ride time will become comparable to Carthage area high school bus riders.

The Board directed Dr. Campbell to write a letter of response to the Illini West Board stating that all members were present and that no action was taken to reverse the unanimous April board decision concerning transportation. The letter is to include the positive reasons for separated high school and elementary busing.

No Closed Meeting.

A motion was made by Campbell with second by Carpenter to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m. The voice vote response indicated all were in favor. The meeting adjourned.

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President

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Secretary