

La Harpe Community School District #347  
**LA HARPE SCHOOL BOARD News Release – December 2017**

The La Harpe school board met Dec. 19 in the school library. Pres. Bobi James and members Brian Brown, Lacey Covert, Dustin Detherage, and Darren Spangler were present along with Supt. Olson, Prin. McKeown and Bd. Sec. Jeanne Clayton. The board approved the FY 2019 tax levy with a 4.97% raise, the consent agenda and payment of the bills, and Randy May as Scholastic Bowl coach with Becky Moran as assistant coach. 8<sup>th</sup> grade promotion will be held May 25, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. On Jan 6, at 9 a.m. the Board will hold a strategic planning meeting, and on January 16 at 6 p.m. before the regular monthly meeting a Committee of the Whole will meet to review the newest policy updates.

Dr. Olson included the most recent report of reimbursements not yet processed totaling \$77,076 for FY18 which have been vouchered by the State, but are still awaiting payment. The District completed and passed lead testing for all potable water, which is a new compliance item for school districts. Dr. Olson and the Board discussed the challenges for students who turn 15 years old with an Individualized Education Plan while still attending junior high. By law, the students automatically become the responsibility of the high school district, which would warrant an agreement between the high school and elementary districts for the student to complete the optimal transition to a high school curriculum. A set of classroom Chrome books may be gifted to the District from a local benefactor, moving the District another step closer to one-to-one computing in the classrooms. School employees were very grateful to the Board for the Christmas turkeys and hams!

Principal McKeown gave an update on junior high athletics. Due to low numbers of players, 4<sup>th</sup> grade girls have been invited to play on the 5th grade volleyball team. 8<sup>th</sup> grade students were given the PSAT test at Illini West. The preschool held a "Fine Motor Fun" Family Night, and the PTO hosted a "Breakfast with Santa" fundraiser, which was well-attended. The Pre-K, grades K-4 and grades 5-8 Christmas programs were held with a special thank you going to Mrs. Mencil for the outstanding K-4<sup>th</sup> grade Christmas madrigal. The junior high students enjoyed a movie at the theater in Macomb and classrooms held their Christmas parties. The teachers worked on school improvement topics such as student engagement, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) activities, questioning and creativity, before heading out for Christmas break. Several area organizations have donated items for needy students and their families during this season, which are much appreciated. Some volunteers plan to provide weekend backpack meals for needy students through a Hancock County grant that is available.

La Harpe School Board meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month in the school library. Agendas and approved minutes are posted on the website at [laharpeeagles.org](http://laharpeeagles.org).