

La Harpe Community School District #347
LA HARPE SCHOOL BOARD News Release – February 2018

The La Harpe school board held a rescheduled regular meeting Feb. 27, 2018 in the school library. Brian Brown, Lacey Covert, Dustin Detherage, Pres. Bobi James, Ryan Johnson, Darren Spangler, Cindy Wear, Supt. Ryan Olson, Prin. Lila McKeown, and recording secretary Jeanne Clayton attended. Visitors were Regional Supt. John Meixner, LEA Co-presidents Susan Bray and Melissa Johnson, and teachers Ashley Cox, Julie Garrison, Ryan Hopper, Stephanie Mencil, and Karri Wallace. LEA Co-presidents Susan Bray and Melissa Johnson gave a heartfelt and detailed presentation highlighting the need for a school counselor. Bray and Johnson also presented letters from several teachers with their personal thoughts and classroom situations that point to a need for the support of a school mental health professional. Board Pres. Bobi James thanked the LEA and teachers for their input. Dr. Olson explained that he and Prin. McKeown have been working toward finding a school psychologist/social worker combination so a professional would be available at the school every day. These two professionals can not only counsel students but can also provide the requirements for Individualized Education Programs and many other services that a counselor is not certified to perform.

The Summer School Breakfast/Lunch Program Hearing was held at which Regional Supt. John Meixner read the document detailing the legal provision to opt-out of the summer school food service program due to the reimbursement not covering the cost of implementation. Meixner acknowledged the District's testimony in the form of a letter petitioning to opt out. He then called for public testimony of which there was none. Meixner will send the district approval/denial notice by March 1 as well as notifying the appropriate State school board official.

The board approved the consent agenda, payment of the bills, and sick days transfer. The board accepted Mandy Palmer's resignation from head cook and discussed pressing staffing needs and individual student issues.

Dr. Olson included the most recent report of reimbursements not yet processed totaling \$68,785.76 for FY18 which have been vouchered by the State but are still awaiting payment. Supt. Olson attended an ESSA workshop. Olson gave details of the content of the workshop. The second school board goal-setting workshop is scheduled for March 10 at 9:00 a.m. The first bargaining meeting with the LEA for the new teacher contract will be March 19 at 3:30 p.m. Dr. Olson presented information on the procedures to follow in demolishing the Corry house, giving the steps like determining asbestos, etc. from the Health Life Safety handbook provided by the ROE. The Johnson estate check totaling \$385,000 should be received soon. Olson alerted the Board to current legislative bills concerning school districts about teacher pay and the TRS cost shift.

Principal McKeown gave a report on athletics, a reading visit by Judge Rodney Clark, and a NED Character Education assembly. McKeown reported on the Spelling Bee, a Charger game at the La Harpe gym, and the Booster Club spaghetti supper. Elementary classrooms had Valentine parties and the junior high held the annual "King and Queen of Hearts" activity. McKeown reported the success of Jump Rope for Heart, 3rd quarter midterms were completed, and 8th grader attended Illini West Freshmen Orientation. McKeown has completed winter data meetings with the teachers and PARRC testing will begin soon. The recent teacher in-service was on GRIT, Classroom Management, and STEM. The GRIT course by Angela Duckworth fosters student perseverance encouraging interest, practice, purpose, and hope. PE and music teachers attended workshops at the ROE, and our Kindergarten and First Grade teachers are scheduled to attend a conference on those grades.

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.