

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

The La Harpe school board held board planning workshops in March and April. Dr. Olson reviewed the shared values and beliefs that were discussed at a February meeting. A belief statement regarding students' physical, emotional, social, and academic well-being was added to the list. There was a discussion on sending out surveys to staff and community members to gather input as part of the strategic planning process, including examining strengths and weaknesses that are internal to the district and opportunities and threats that are external to the district. Staff will be surveyed before the end of the school year. A survey will be sent out with the summer newsletter for the community members. The Board reviewed the district's current mission statement and felt that it still applies to the current shared values and beliefs. The Board also reviewed the current vision statement, and discussed that it is still relevant today. At the April planning meeting Pres. James and the Board listed some possible dates to meet for 4 hours with Reatha Owen from IASB. The Board will complete and Advance Preparation Survey prior to the workshop with Owen. A community survey will be prepared with plans to include it in the summer newsletter.

In addition to the financial report and payment of bills at the March Meeting, the Board approved Katie Todd as a Substitute Paraprofessional, Leesa Swanson and Jeni Richardson as Co-Head Cooks (Beginning 2018-2019 School Year), and approved a nonrenewal for social studies teacher, Angela Douglas, for SY19. The negotiations committee gave an update on meetings with the LEA. James and Wear met with Dallas City Board President Bob Castillo and Vice President regarding Dr. Olson's resignation and to verify both boards will continue sharing a superintendent. Discussion items were: having an interim during the superintendent search and using the School Board Association's services for the search process. A joint committee of the boards will interview candidates. Johnson, James, and Detherage will serve on the search committee. Dr. Olson included the most recent report of reimbursements not yet processed totaling \$68,851.70 for Fiscal Year 2018 which have been vouchered by the State but are still awaiting payment. Districts have been told they will receive all of the mandated categorical payments by fiscal year end. Olson shared information from a recent workshop on the new evidence-based funding model and related mandated in the Every Student Succeeds Act. La Harpe and Dallas teachers will meet to learn about what the new funding model and what that will mean for our school at their School Improvement Day. They will also learn about cultural bias and becoming trauma informed. Olson is teaching the junior high students jujitsu with the help of Ken Brown and Bret Fairchild. Olson has looked into refinancing the bonds and shared some information with the Board.

Principal McKeown gave a track update. Illini West counselor, Mr. Bliss, registered 8<sup>th</sup> graders for freshman classes and IW cheer, dance, and flags performed. PARCC testing, an annual tornado drill, and spring pictures were completed. The Boosters' Spike-Out Cancer Night was a success. The Book Fair, Parent Teacher Conferences, and Preschool and Kindergarten screenings were held. The Regional office and State Fire Marshall compliance visit results were received with a few mandated items to fix, move, or remove. McKeown shared pertinent areas in which the school staff and Board could coordinate goal setting. McKeown also suggested utilizing the Parent Teacher Advisory Committee to review these areas together. Part of this Committee's role is to review the District's Discipline policy. Covert had been a part of the most recent of these committee meetings.

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).