

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

At the April meeting, the Board approved the financial report and payment of bills, and increased school meal prices for next year by 10 cents. The Board renewed the IESA membership, approved the preliminary school calendar for 2018-19, and set the amended budget hearing for 7:15 p.m. on June 19, 2018. A one year contract with the LEA was approved. Negotiation discussion items were reviewed including fair share, personal leave, salary, contract time frame, ESSA funding, professional support personnel and superintendent search. Dr. Olson's resignation from superintendent was received, and due to a reduction in bus routes, a morning driver's and an afternoon driver's resolutions of reduction were approved.

Board members completed IASB surveys and James led the discussion on each section, compiling their thoughts for future planning. Topics of discussion included changing demographics; community support & involvement; future trends; funding & finances; staff dedication turnover, & morale; professional support personnel; consolidation; 1-1 computing; as well as student growth & testing data. The Board also discussed communication with parents, developing a team effort, community rapport & extra financial support, PTO, working with IW & legislators on the special education age issue, a unified high school identity, child safety & school security cameras, and an updated campus plan. James will compile survey results and email it for feedback before sending it to Reatha Owen of the IASB. The Board and administrators will meet with Reatha Owen May 30 from 5-9pm for a guided planning session.

Dr. Olson included the most recent report of reimbursements not yet processed totaling \$120,286.81 for FY18 which have been vouchered by the State but are still awaiting payment, which is over \$51,000 more than last month. The new "tier" funding as part of the new evidence-based funding has resulted in La Harpe being in position to receive over \$8,000 additional funding for FY18. This amount becomes our base funding minimum. A school psychologist has accepted a shared position with La Harpe and Dallas position (hired through Dallas) for the coming year. Dr. Olson also gave the Board information regarding the superintendent search process. The May board meeting will include a committee of the whole to review the new PRESS policy changes.

Principal McKeown reported on the progress of track and Scholastic Bowl. Spring Parent-Teacher Conferences were held the evenings of March 21 and 22. The PTO held a Vendor Blender in the gym on March 24. Of the Solo & Ensemble contestants on April 14, students received several first place awards and one second place award. PARCC testing has been completed. Mrs. McKeown was chosen by the IESA to participate in reading Illinois Scholar Athlete essays, which she found to be very rewarding. Mrs. Bray, Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. McKeown attended a workshop April 5 on School Improvement with the Evidence-Based Model (EBM) and Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), and Bray & McKeown watched a Title I webinar. McKeown is also completing teacher observations after spring assessments are finished.

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).