

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

On May 15, the La Harpe School Board held a Committee of the Whole prior to the regular meeting to review policy. Dr. Olson led the Committee through each of the updates proposed by the Illinois Association of School Boards PRESS Policy Service. The Committee considered wording choices and heard changes in law which warrant the policy updates. Policies reviewed dealt with the following topics: School Board: Uniform Grievance Procedure; Operational Services: Incurring Debt; General Personnel: Workplace Harassment Prohibited; and General Personnel: Copyright. Policy updates are officially approved by Board vote in a regular open meeting, then they are sent electronically to PRESS Policy Service and an updated district policy manual will be received for the offices and posted on the district website at laharpeeagles.org.

The Board then held the regular meeting, approved the financial report and payment of bills, and renewed membership with Illinois School Board Association. The board approved the final 2017-18 school calendar updated with snow days, and an executive search agreement with IASB. The parents of two junior high students presented their concerns to the board in closed meeting. The following personnel were approved: Grant James--track coach, Courtney Rude 7/8 girls basketball coach with Dave Clover assisting, Becky Moran—Scholastic Bowl coach, Ryan Hopper—baseball coach with Peyton Porter assisting, Ryan Hopper 7/8 boys basketball coach with Matt Melvin assisting, and Leah Shumaker—7/8 volleyball coach with Courtney Rude assisting. Other personnel approvals were Lauren Wascher—paraprofessional, Kelly Lafferty—part-time summer district office helper, and the following summer custodial help: Laura Kneiss, Donna Nell, Donna Grisham, Sandy Little, Raina Little, and Ethan James (pending IW superintendent approval. Sally Boyle and Jill Dunham's retirement letters from their paraprofessional positions were accepted.

Dr. Olson included the most recent report of reimbursements not yet processed totaling \$68,534.15 for FY18 which have been vouchered by the State but are still awaiting payment. We are still awaiting confirmation of whether we will receive a federal cafeteria equipment grant. Dr. Olson and Mrs. McKeown attended a Student Behavioral Threat Assessment training which included going through scenarios and determining threat levels and who to contact. Dr. Olson will be house-hunting in Arizona for a week, but he will return for 8th grade promotion. Dr. Olson reminded the Board of the May 30 5:00 p.m. strategic planning meeting with Reatha Owen of the IASB. This is a 4 hour session. Olson shared about our invitation to participate in the Illinois Student Assistance Coalition Gear Up grant of \$20k for the junior high and high school which provides fully-funded new services and support designed to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. Olson received word that tax bills will be later due to late assessment of properties, so the District may not receive revenues until October.

Principal McKeown reported that we had 8 students participate in the State track meet. The Illini West drama group presented a scene from their spring play, "The Addams Family". Mrs. Bray hosted a K-2 Title I Family Night, Mrs. Wallace had "donuts with Dad" and "Muffins with Mom", and the 7th grade Springfield trip to the Capitol, tomb & museums was enjoyed. The 6th grade explored Mark Twain's Cave in Hannibal, the 4th grade experienced Old Thresher's in Hamilton, and 1st grade went to Carthage for "Down on the Farm". Our final fire drill was practiced, a safety drill with the police was held, and Kindergarten Orientation was completed. Mrs. Mencil's spring concerts with the 5th-8th graders and the K-4th graders were outstanding. Mrs. McKeown and Mrs. Bray attended the Title I Director's Conference in Springfield. Staff School Improvement Day included presentations on Childhood Trauma, Evidence-Based Funding and Every Child Succeeds Act (ESSA). McKeown included the monthly activity account report.

On Wednesday, May 30, 2018, the La Harpe school board held a goal setting workshop. The meeting lasted about 4 hours and was facilitated by Reatha Owen from the Illinois Association of School Boards. Each member shared their expectations, they discussed foundational principals, values & beliefs, strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats, developed district goals and talked about next steps.

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.