

The Board of Education of La Harpe Community School District #347 held a regular meeting January 15, 2013 in the school district library. President Cindy Wear called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

Roll Call was answered by Pam Campbell, Rex Huston, Mark Irish, Darren Spangler, and Cindy Wear. Nathan Butler and Willo Carpenter were not in attendance. Supt. Jo Campbell and Board Sec. Jeanne Clayton were in attendance. President Wear welcomed Title I Teacher Breda Sparrow.

A motion was made by Irish with second by Huston to approve the minutes of the open and closed meetings of the December 18, 2012 regular meeting of the La Harpe CSD #347 School Board as amended. Roll Call: Butler, absent; Campbell, yes; Carpenter, absent; Huston, yes; Irish, yes; Spangler, yes; Wear, yes. Motion carried 5-0.

Supt. Campbell gave the financial report and presented district bills.

A motion was made by Irish with second by Wear to approve the financial report and payment of bills as amended. Roll Call: Campbell, yes; Carpenter, absent; Huston, yes; Irish, yes; Spangler, yes; Wear, yes; Butler, absent. Motion carried 5-0.

Public Presentations:

Title I Teacher Brenda Sparrow gave a presentation on student reading lessons and Title I Parent Night activities. 2nd grade teacher Erin Schatz provided the Board a narrative of recent writing lessons and samples of student writing from her 2nd grade class. Sparrow is mentoring Schatz in her first year teaching at La Harpe. La Harpe teachers have made presentations to the Board each month which have been a highlight of the regular Board meetings this school year.

Board Committee Reports:

Facilities: The Board is in the process of reviewing the plans and budget for an 8 to 9 million dollar Phase II addition to the La Harpe main school building. The addition would be funded with school construction grant money once La Harpe's funding year is reached, and complete plans must be submitted to the State prior to this. La Harpe's financial share of the Phase II project has been met with the recent 2.5 million dollar Phase I reconstruction of the 1958 wing of the main building and the demolition of the 1928 building. Phase II will involve the demolition of several other buildings along with new construction over D Street with the goal of housing all students, cafeteria and offices under one roof for greatly increased function and security.

Technology: Another ongoing goal toward which the La Harpe Board is making strides is the use of technology in educational curriculum. Interactive boards have been installed in nearly all classrooms and many students regularly use netbooks (small laptop computers) with their lessons. More steps must be taken to provide updated technology and training for students in preparation for mandatory online testing in the school year 2014-15.

Butler arrived 7:43 p.m.

Dr. Campbell's Superintendent's report included information about fundraising to benefit the safety of the school District. A representative of the nursing home has been in communication with the school administration and is ready to proceed. Dr. Campbell mentioned the challenges of the blizzard before Christmas break, the January Teachers Institute on Technology, and gave

updates on legislation. Dr. Campbell led the Board through Policy and Member Services on the IASB website, and also showed the Board where to find the IIRC link on the ISBE website.

Principal McKeown arrived 7:50 and gave updates on the progress of each athletic team, Christmas activities, teacher observations and the evaluation administrative trainings she completed, and a community meeting about security she attended. Prin. McKeown has met with the Rtl team in the junior high to identify “essential skills” needed by high school students.

Business Items:

School District Policy Updates, PRESS Issue #80; First Reading: The policy committee met and reviewed policy changes presented by PRESS services. The Committee also worked on policy regarding student grade level assignment. The Committee will continue working on this policy. A motion was made by Huston with second by Butler to approve the first reading of District policy updates as presented. Roll Call: Huston, yes; Irish, yes; Spangler, yes; Wear, yes; Butler, yes; Campbell, yes; Carpenter, absent. Motion carried 6-0.

Eighth Grade Graduation: A motion was made by Butler with second by Campbell to set eighth grade graduation for 7:00 p.m. on Friday, May 17, 2013. Roll Call: Carpenter, absent; Huston, yes; Irish, yes; Spangler, yes; Wear, yes; Butler, yes; Campbell, yes. Motion carried 6-0.

Brenda Sparrow left the meeting at 8:30.

Planning for Phase II of School Construction Grant Program: The Board viewed two scenarios: one with the Johnson Building remaining, and the second with the Johnson Building replaced. Budget pages include cost for a bus barn on N. D Street. The Facilities Committee together with administrators and head custodian will meet to finalize a recommended plan for the February meeting which would include everything that is needed so it can be submitted to the State. After this, plans will be made available for public comment at a publicized meeting. Dr. Campbell showed the Board how to access the School Construction link on the ISBE website and view the District name on the 2005 Funding Year application list. This was a discussion item only, with no action necessary at this time.

Verbatim Closed Meeting Records: A motion was made by Spangler with second by Butler to approve the deletion of verbatim closed meeting recordings made at least 18 months and older, per board policy 2:220. Roll Call: Spangler, yes; Wear, yes; Butler, yes; Campbell, yes; Carpenter, absent; Huston, yes; Irish, yes. Motion carried 6-0.

Closed Meeting:

A motion was made by Butler with second by Huston to adjourn to closed meeting on January 15, 2013 at 9:14 p.m. to discuss items per ILCS 120/2(c) listed below:

(1) Appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees,

(10) Matters relating to individual students.

(21) Discussion of minutes lawfully closed.

Roll Call: Butler, yes; Campbell, yes; Carpenter, absent; Huston, yes; Irish, yes; Spangler, yes; Wear, yes. Motion carried 6-0.

President Wear called the January 15, 2013 closed meeting to order at 9:14 p.m. Board members present: Nathan Butler, Pam Campbell, Rex Huston, Mark Irish, Darren

Spangler, and Cindy Wear. Also present: Supt. Jo Campbell, Princ. Lila McKeown, and Sec. Jeanne Clayton.

Closed meeting included discussion of (1) Annual Superintendent Evaluation process, (1) Preliminary Staffing for FY14, (1) School Psychologist for FY14, (1) Substitute Teacher communication, (1) Superintendent Search Update, and (10) Matters Related to Individual Students, (21) Review of Closed Meeting Minutes.

A motion was made by Butler with second by Irish to return to open meeting at 10:21 p.m. Voice Vote confirmed all in favor. Motion carried.

Superintendent Evaluation: No Board action required for this item.

Semiannual Review of Closed Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Butler with second by Spangler to leave the preceding six months closed meeting minutes sealed. Roll Call: Irish, yes; Spangler, yes; Wear, yes; Butler, yes; Campbell, yes; Carpenter, absent; Huston, yes. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Butler with second by Irish to adjourn the meeting at 10:23 p.m. The voice vote response returned all in favor. None opposed. The meeting adjourned.

Signed by Cindy Wear
Board President

Signed by Jeanne Clayton
Board Secretary

Approved 02-19-2013