

SCHOOL BOARD News Release – January 15, 2013

At the January 15, 2013 regular meeting of the La Harpe Board of Education, 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.

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.

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.

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 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.

The Board set 8th Grade Graduation for 7:00 p.m. on Friday, May 17, 2013, reviewed policy updates, left the preceding 6 months closed meeting minutes sealed, and announced the joint Dallas and La Harpe Superintendent Search Committee will continue to meet and interview candidates.

To view agendas, news releases and approved minutes, please visit the school board section of the La Harpe Eagles website at www.laharpeeagles.org. We apologize for any inconvenience or unavailability of documents on the district website while it is being reformatted for greater ease of access.