

**SCHOOL BOARD News Release – Oct 2012**

At the October 16 meeting of the La Harpe Board of Education, Illini West Supt. Kim Schilson explained the High School building referendum and answered questions about it. Science teacher Chris Schwarz presented an example of the lessons he is using in Junior High science class to creatively engage the students in learning. Schwarz demonstrated to the Board how he taught the metric system and reinforced it with activities in a Mini-Metric Olympics lesson. Schwarz also praised Principal McKeown's positive influence and support in his first years of teaching. Schwarz expressed his love of teaching the La Harpe students as being worth the 40 miles he drives from his home each day.

Superintendent Campbell's report included information on Core Curriculum, State Pension Shifting and Ed Reform. Prin. McKeown gave updates on athletics, the start of an elementary Reading Club, a 5<sup>th</sup> grade trip to the Safety Fair, Miles of Smiles dental services, and the activities and drills of Fire Prevention Day. McKeown noted that our local firemen do an excellent job with the fire prevention activities, and mentioned we are so fortunate to have such a dedicated group of individuals serving our community. McKeown spoke of Bus Safety activities, a Positive Behavior celebration with a "community connection", and Red Ribbon Week. New teachers have been trained on the *Nonviolent Crisis Intervention*® program, developed by the Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI), which teaches staff to respond effectively to the warning signs that someone is beginning to lose control. Teachers who have previously attended the training have a refresher course on the subject. Six teachers are set to attend the Illinois Technology Conference, and three will go to Common Core Standards Elementary Math workshops.

The Board reviewed the Annual Financial Report and approved the Annual Application for Recognition of Schools, Administrative Compensation Report, the amended Classified Staff Salary Schedule, the LEA Contract, and the purchase of a staff Christmas gift for each district employee. The HVAC controls for the south wing of the main building have been updated, the new sidewalk south of the cafeteria, and the guttering extensions have been completed using grant funds. The Board accepted with regrets the resignation submitted by Dr. Ruth Kelly who will continue to provide psychologist services on an as-needed basis. The Board hired Amanda Palmer as Assistant Head Cook, Chris Altgilbers as Junior High Girls Basketball Assistant coach, Ryan Hopper and Matt Melvin as JH Boys Basketball Head and Assistant coaches respectively, and Chris and Krissy Altgilbers as 5<sup>th</sup>6<sup>th</sup> Boys Basketball head and assistant coaches respectively.

*To view agendas, news releases and approved minutes, please visit the school board section of the La Harpe Eagles website at [www.laharpeeagles.org](http://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.*