

The Board of Education of LaHarpe Community School District #347 held a regular School Board meeting on 16 December 2025 in the Board room. President Dustin Detherage called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Roll call was answered by Blythe, Dowell, Deitrich, Burt, and Detherage. Superintendent Janet Gladu, and Principal Ryan Hopper were also in attendance.

Visitors in attendance were Jacques Reynolds, Laura Jones, and Jerry Maas.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a Moment of Silence was observed.

Public Comment: none

Business Items:

The Consent Agenda included the approval of the agenda, Open Meeting Minutes of the November 18, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes of the LaHarpe CSD 347 School, Financial Reports, Individual Fund Balances, Payment of Bills, action to delete the verbatim closed session meeting records that were 18 months and older, FOIA requests, and Ryan Hopper's resignation as the District's Transportation Director effective June 30, 2026.

Fund	FY 2026
Education	\$2,511,759.68
Building	\$313,559.25
Debt Services	\$108,005.97
Transportation	\$158,040.98
IMRF	\$169,074.03
Capital Projects	\$100,000
Working Cash	\$47,553.71
TORT Immunity	\$190,007.67
Fire Prevention & Safety	\$224,922.28
Total	\$3,822,923.57
Difference from Prior Year	1.23% increase
Comparison Year	Total
FY 2025	\$3,776,629.79
FY 2024	\$3,813,449.86
FY 2023	\$3,061,185.25
FY 2022	\$2,423,966.80
FY 2021	\$1,584,443.65

A motion was made by Blythe with a second by Dowell to approve the items on the Consent Agenda: Open Meeting Minutes of the November 18, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes of the LaHarpe CSD 347 School. Financial Reports, Individual Fund Balances, Payment of Bills, action to delete the verbatim closed session meeting records that were 18 months and older, FOIA requests, Ryan Hopper's resignation as the district's Transportation Director effective June 30, 2026. Roll Call: Deitrich – yes; Burt- yes; Blythe – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Motion Carried 5 – yay, 0 – abstain, 0 – nay, Motion Carried: 5-0.

Architechnics Presentation of Bid Results

Jacques Reynolds went over the Bid Tabulation (attached) with the board meeting. Jerry Maas presented himself at the board meeting to answer any board questions. Jacques noted that all companies were responsible bidders and that the low bidder was Maas from Quincy, Illinois. Jacques discussed the unit prices/costs, and alternate bids. He stated that all bids had the 4 required allowances that are potential costs for the project. His recommendation was to accept Maas' based and alternate bid. Maas met all requirements and Architechnics had no reason to disqualify them. Board questions included what "lowest responsible bidder" included as well as questions related to an ongoing lawsuit between Maas Construction and Quincy Public School District. Mr. Maas addressed the concerns that he could answer. The board, Jacques and Mr. Maas addressed and discussed the letter from Carpenter's Council that was sent to the board members. The board shared that they were trying to do their due diligence. The board shared concerns about Peter's. Mr. Maas stated that if his company was hired, they would use a different contractor from Peter's.

The board discussed price variances between Maas and Laverdiere. The board shared reservations. Jacques stated that the board must have a reason not to accept the lowest bid and that location of the company was not a reason. He recommended talking to district counsel about not taking the lowest responsible bidder and to follow-up with phone calls to companies/places that have used Maas.

Maas stated that if his company was hired, he anticipated starting by March 2026.

No action – board discussion only.

Consider Bids for Cafeteria Addition & Award Project:

Motion by Dowell with a second by Burt to table the action on the Cafeteria Addition Project pending further review and clarification. Roll Call: Deitrich – yes; Burt- yes; Blythe – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Motion Carried 5 – yay, 0 – abstain, 0 – nay, Motion Carried: 5-0.

2-hour Delay Start:

Superintendent Gladu discussed utilizing a 2-hour delay start as part of the emergency (snow) day procedures. The 2-hour delay start will be utilized sparingly with ample notification (night before) to families. No action – discussion only.

Board Policy Update:

Superintendent Gladu discussed the proposed Board Policy Updates as presented by the Illinois Association of School Boards Press Plus Service.

Motion by Blythe with a second by Detherage to approve the policy updates as presented. Roll Call: Deitrich – yes; Burt- yes; Blythe – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Motion Carried 5 – yay, 0 – abstain, 0 – nay, Motion Carried: 5-0.

Student Handbook Update:

Superintendent Gladu discussed the Illinois Principal's Association Model Student Handbook updates that aligned with policy updates.

Motion by Deitrich with a second by Blythe to approve the midyear updates as presented to the 2025-2026 Student Handbook to ensure alignment with current legislative and policy alignment. Roll Call: Deitrich –

yes; Burt- yes; Blythe – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Motion Carried 5 – yay, 0 – abstain, 0 – nay, Motion Carried: 5-0.

Series 2025 General Obligation Bonds Pricing and Payment Schedule:

Finance Manager Laura Jones discussed opening a CDARS account for the bond monies. Opening this account would allow the district to make 3.45% interest on a 13-week deposit and 3.4% interest on a 26-week account. Laura stated these accounts are opened on Thursday's. Superintendent Gladu stated that CDARS accounts are contractual and required board approval. The board elected to hold a special meeting on Monday, December 22, 2025 for the purpose of opening a CDARS account.

Superintendent Gladu shared the new bond payment schedule with the Board that was given to her by Financial Manager Tim King.

No action - discussion only

Breakfast/Lunch Prices for Adults:

Superintendent Gladu shared that our NSLP review is scheduled for Spring 2026 and staff has been working with ISBE to ensure all required components are in place. Cafeteria management staff identified that adult meal prices are out of compliance and noted that they have not increased in the last four years. Superintendent Gladu shared information from ISBE that noted that required minimums were \$3.00 for breakfast and \$4.45 for lunch and recommended this cost adjustments take effect on January 5, 2026.

A motion was made by Dowell with a second by Detherage to approve the adjustment of adult meal prices to \$3.00 for breakfast and \$4.45 for lunch, effective January 5, 2026. Roll Call: Deitrich – yes; Burt- yes; Blythe – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Motion Carried 5 – yay, 0 – abstain, 0 – nay, Motion Carried: 5-0.

Activities/Athletics Meals Procedure:

Superintendent Gladu shared recommended student activities and athletics meal allowances of \$40 per day with no more than \$10 for breakfast, \$15 for lunch, and \$15 for dinner allowances. The board requested the document contain timeframes of meal allowances before approval. No action taken.

Reports:

Board Members:

President Detherage discussed and shared information on a banner printer that he saw at the Triple I conference in Chicago. The board discussed options to purchase the printer.

Superintendent:

Superintendent Gladu stated that Aubrey Porter was the November Team Member of the Month. She also shared that the district was recently awarded \$6,000 from Tracy Family Foundation for the La Harpe Dinner Project.

A motion was made by Blythe with a second by Dietrich to adjourn the meeting to closed session at 7:26 pm to discuss items per 5 ILCS 120/2/(c)(1). The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District and (15) closed session minutes. Roll Call: Deitrich – yes; Burt- yes; Blythe – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Motion Carried 5 – yay, 0 – abstain, 0 – nay, Motion Carried: 5-0.

A motion was made by Dowell with a second by Dietrich to adjourn the December 16, 2025 closed session at 7:31 pm. Voice Vote: Deitrich – yes; Burt- yes; Blythe – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Motion Carried 5 – yay, 0 – abstain, 0 – nay, Motion Carried: 5-0.

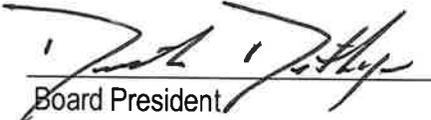
A motion was made by Blythe with a second by Detherage to return to open session at 7:31 pm. Voice Vote: Deitrich – yes; Burt- yes; Blythe – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Motion Carried 5 – yay, 0 – abstain, 0 – nay, Motion Carried: 5-0.

A motion was made by Burt with a second by Deitrich to approve the closed session minutes from July 15, 2025 and August 5, 2025. Roll Call: Deitrich – yes; Burt- yes; Blythe – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Motion Carried 5 – yay, 0 – abstain, 0 – nay, Motion Carried: 5-0.

A motion was made by Deitrich with a second by Dowell to hire Rebecca Huston as a substitute assistant volleyball coach for the 2025-2026 season. Roll Call: Deitrich – yes; Burt- yes; Blythe – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Motion Carried 5 – yay, 0 – abstain, 0 – nay, Motion Carried: 5-0.

A motion was made by Detherage with a second by Blythe to hire Sharon Berlett as a certified teacher. Roll Call: Deitrich – yes; Burt- yes; Blythe – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Motion Carried 5 – yay, 0 – abstain, 0 – nay, Motion Carried: 5-0.

A motion was made by Detherage with a second by Deitrich to adjourn the December 16, 2025 board meeting at 7:32 pm. Voice Vote: Deitrich – yes; Burt- yes; Blythe – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Motion Carried 5 – yay, 0 – abstain, 0 – nay, Motion Carried: 5-0.


Board President


Board Secretary

1-20-26
Date Approved