Board of Education LaHarpe CSD #347 23 June 2026

The Board of Education of LaHarpe Community School District #347 held a Regular School Board meeting on 23 June 2026 in the Board room. President Dustin Detherage called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Roll call was answered by Blythe, Dowell, Burt, Detherage, Gebhardt, and Deitrich. Principal Ryan Hopper and Board Secretary Liz McCarter were also in attendance.

Visitors in attendance: John Quigle

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

A Moment of Silence was observed.

Public Comment: None

Business Items

A motion was made by Burt with a second by Dowell to approve the items on the Consent Agenda minus b, e, and f. Amended closed minutes 4 June 2026, Regular Minutes from May 19, 2026, and Special Meeting Minutes from June 4, 2026, financial reports, payment of bills minus architechnics, and FOIA requests.

Effective July 1, 2026, remove Janet Gladu as the District's LEA Foster Care Point of Contact.
Effective July 1, 2026, remove Janet Gladu from all district financial accounts.
Effective July 1, 2026, remove Janet Gladu as a financial signatory for the district.
Effective July 1, 2026, remove Janet Gladu from the Administrative Procedure – Succession Plan: Board Policy (BP) 3:70-AP
Effective July 1, 2026, remove Janet Gladu as the district's FOIA officer.
Effective July 1, 2026, remove Janet Gladu as the district's OMA representative.
Effective July 1, 2026, remove Janet Gladu from the Emergency Response Provider Team BP 4:170-AP6
Effective July 1, 2026, remove Janet Gladu from the district's AED User/Team – BP 4:170-AP6
Effective July 1, 2026, remove Janet Gladu as the District's Complaint Manager – BP 2:260; BP 5:10, BP 5:20; BP 7:20; BP 7:180; & BP 7:255.
Effective July 1, 2026, remove Janet Gladu as the District's Privacy Officer BP 7:345-AP, E4
Effective July 1, 2026, remove Janet Gladu as the District's Title IX Decision Maker.
Effective July 1, 2026, remove Janet Gladu as a district credit card holder.
Effective July 1, 2026, remove Janet Gladu as the district's DMCA agent – BP 5:170
Effective July 1, 2026, revoke/reassign all superintendent authorities overseen/managed by Janet Gladu.

Roll Call: Blythe- yes; Burt – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Deitrich – yes. Motion Carried 6 – yay, 0 – abstain, 0 – nay, 1 – Absent: Motion Carried: 6-0.

Discussion was had by the board on the approval of the closed session minutes from the June 4 meeting. They were amended. Discussion was had regarding payment of bills. Burt stated there is a charge for boiler design for $5,000. He questioned if bids went out for this because it was never discussed. He also asked if we have an itemized bill on this that they could see. Detherage stated we could pull the bill.

A motion was made by Gebhardt with a second by Blythe to approve the closed minutes with the amendments. Roll Call: Blythe- yes; Burt – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Deitrich – yes. Motion Carried 6 – yay, 0 – abstain, 0 – nay, 1 – Absent: Motion Carried: 6-0.

A motion was made by Burt with a second by Gebhardt to approve the bills minus Architechnics until the board can get more information on the boiler design bill. Roll Call: Blythe- yes; Burt – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Deitrich – yes. Motion Carried 6 – yay, 0 – abstain, 0 – nay, 1 – Absent: Motion Carried: 6-0.

Discussion was had regarding the deletion of verbatim closed meeting recordings. All board members discussed the importance of saving these for now.

A motion was made to NOT delete verbatim closed meeting recordings 18 months and older. Roll Call: Blythe- yes; Burt – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Deitrich – yes. Motion Carried 6 – yay, 0 – abstain, 0 – nay, 1 – Absent: Motion Carried: 6-0.

Amended Budget:
Discussion was had regarding the budget. The district is owed approximately $260,000 in grant funds. Fortunately, the Education Fund had ample revenue to cover this amount. The amended budget is a compilation of all expenses/revenues throughout the school year. Fund 30 and Fund 60 negatives are off set by the permanent transfer of the bond sale. The difference in our amended budget from the proposed budget is less than a 1% increase.

A motion was made by Blythe with a second by Gebhardt to approve the amended 2025-2026 budget. Roll Call: Blythe- yes; Burt – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Deitrich – yes. Motion Carried 6 – yay, 0 – abstain, 0 – nay, 1 – Absent: Motion Carried: 6-0.

Parent Sponsored Softball:
Discussion was had regarding the request from a community member for a parent led softball team. Dowell voiced concerns that the cost alone would exclude students from participating and questioned if this could be school sponsored instead of parent led. Hopper stated that the deadline for IESA registration is July 1st and all schedules are already made for the season that would start in a couple months. Burt asked if we will have the numbers to field a team. Hopper stated that any sport that is 5-8th grade numbers are not usually an issue. Gebhardt questioned if it could be parent run this year to get it started like cross country and golf were and then move to a school sponsored sport in the future. Detherage stated that we should take it to the sports co-op first. Detherage stated the timing is rushed for this year. Dowell stated that when you rush into things you usually run into problems. It was decided this would be tabled to give the AD more time to work on schedules, and to give the athletic co-op a chance to talk about it in September. Detherage is reaching out to the community member to see if she is willing to come speak to the board and the athletic co-op about this.

Fuel Bids:
Detherage stated we received a fuel bid from West Central FS. The firm bid and the variable bid were both $2.576.
A motion was made Gebhardt with a second by Blythe to accept the fuel bid from West Central FS for the 2026/2027 school year. The unleaded w/ethanol (corn) 87 Octane $2.576 firm bid and $2.576 Variable bid

per gallon plus taxes. Roll Call: Blythe- yes; Burt – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Deitrich – yes. Motion Carried 6 – yay, 0 – abstain, 0 – nay, 1 – Absent: Motion Carried: 6-0.

HVAC Bids:
Discussion was had between the board regarding the current HVAC system. Detherage stated that currently neither of our boilers are working. Dowell asked if we knew the life expectancy of the boilers. Dowell also asked when they plan to start installing. Detherage stated that the lowest bid for HVAC system was from Pipco for $214,297.00. Dowell asked if there was a projected end date to the project. Detherage called Michael and he said they want to be done by the end of September.

A motion was made by Blythe with a second by Gebhardt to approve the HVAC bid from Pipco in the amount of $214,297.00. Roll Call: Blythe- yes; Burt – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Deitrich – yes. Motion Carried 6 – yay, 0 – abstain, 0 – nay, 1 – Absent: Motion Carried: 6-0.

Reports:
Board Committee: None
Board Member:
Burt asked about the old district office and other older buildings that we no longer use. Discussion was had around what needs to be done with the old buildings. He stressed not wanting to neglect the buildings we currently have.
Dowell asked for an update on the solar project. Detherage stated that Michael has been in contact with them and they are on the list for Ameren to come. Detherage stated all of the parts are here Ameren just needs to hook them up.
Principal: None
Athletic Director: None
Transportation Director: Bus 1 is at Clover's getting new tires to keep it up to code.

Board Action:
A motion was made by Dowell with a second by Deitrich to adjourn to closed session at 6:47pm to discuss items pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)(10) The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in an educational setting, or specific volunteers of the District, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor in an educational setting, or a volunteer of the District to determine its validity & 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21) Discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under this Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06. Roll Call: Blythe- yes; Burt – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Deitrich – yes. Motion Carried 6 – yay, 0 – abstain, 0 – nay, 1 – Absent: Motion Carried: 6-0.

A motion was made by Dowell with a second by Deitrich to adjourn to closed session at 6:47pm. (voice vote) all approved. Walker absent.

Detherage called closed session to order at 6:50pm.

A motion was made by Dowell with a second by Blythe to adjourn closed session at 8:13pm. (voice vote) all approved. Walker absent.

A motion was made by Deitrich with a second by Dowell to return to open session at 8:14pm. (voice vote) all approved. Walker absent.

The meeting was called to order at 8:14pm.

A motion was made by Gebhardt with a second by Burt to hire Robert Ketchum as interim superintendent. Roll Call: Blythe- yes; Burt – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Deitrich – yes. Motion Carried 6 – yay, 0 – abstain, 0 – nay, 1 – Absent: Motion Carried: 6-0.

A motion was made by Gebhardt with a second by Blythe to hire Todd Fox for $100 per hour as administrative consultant for the 2026/2027 school year for a max of $10,000. Roll Call: Blythe- yes; Burt – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Deitrich – yes. Motion Carried 6 – yay, 0 – abstain, 0 – nay, 1 – Absent: Motion Carried: 6-0.

A motion was made by Detherage with a second by Dowell to adjourn the 23 June 2026 board meeting at 8:15pm.

Board President

Board Secretary

7-27-26

Date Approved