

The Board of Education of LaHarpe Community School District #347 held a regular School Board meeting on 24 June 2025 in the Board room. President Dustin Detherage called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Roll call was answered by Dowell, Deitrich, Burt, Gebhardt, Detherage, and Walker. Blythe was absent. Superintendent Janet Gladu, Board Secretary Liz McCarter, and Principal Ryan Hopper were also in attendance.

Visitors in attendance were, Melissa Burt, Amy Palmer, Judy Burt, Nikki Pence, Laura Wilhite, and Architect Jacques Reynolds.

A Moment of Silence was observed.

Public Comment: none

Business Items:

The Consent Agenda included the Open Meeting Minutes of the 20 May 2025 Regular Board Meeting of the LaHarpe CSD 347 School, May Financial Reports, Individual Fund Balances, Payment of Bills, and action to delete the verbatim closed session meeting recordings that were 18 months and older. FOIA Requests.

Individual Fund Balances (chart below)

Fund	FY 2025
Education	\$2,189,116.03
Building	\$304,277.36
Debt Services	\$95,707.22
Transportation	\$135,149.42
IMRF	\$45,081.75
Capital Projects	\$0
Working Cash	\$42,541.78
TORT Immunity	\$187,387.45
Fire Prevention & Safety	\$228,935.84
Total	\$3,228,196.85
Increase from Prior Year	8.4 decrease
Comparison Year	
FY 2024	\$3,525,840.16
FY 2023	\$2,689,740.74
FY 2022	\$2,550,791.33
FY 2021	\$2,128,506.20
FY 2020	\$1,348,385.82

The Open Meeting Minutes of the 20 May 2025 Regular Board Meeting were discussed. Burt stated that he read something that he would like added to the minutes. He read the paragraph again from the IASB School Board meeting records and asked that it be added. He provided McCarter with a copy of what he read. The minutes were approved as amended.

A motion was made by Gebhardt with a second by Deitrich to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda: Removal of Minutes, financial reports, payment of bills, acceptance of Haley Dixon's resignation effective 23 May 2025, Audit engagement letter, the deletion of verbatim closed session recording older than 18 months and FOIA requests. Roll Call: Deitrich – yes; Burt- yes; Gebhardt – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Walker – yes; Blythe - Absent. Motion Carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Gebhardt with a second by Burt to approve the amended minutes from the 20 May 2025 Regular Board meeting. Roll Call: Deitrich – yes; Burt- yes; Gebhardt – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Walker – yes; Blythe - Absent. Motion Carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Dowel with a second by Gebhardt at 6:03 to enter a public hearing concerning the intent of the Board of Education of the District to sell \$3,900,000 Building Bonds for the purpose of building and equipping an addition to the LaHarpe Elementary/Junior High School Building, altering, repairing, and equipping the existing facilities of the School District and improving the sites thereof. Roll Call: Deitrich – yes; Burt- yes; Gebhardt – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Walker – yes; Blythe - Absent. Motion Carried 6-0.

Public Hearing on Bonds -

Board comments: Dustin Detherage stated that we need to talk about if we want to do the 25 years with no increase or 20 years with small tax increase. Dowell asked if we know the difference in interest. Burt stated that he had the same question. Detherage stated that we will not know that information until they sell the bonds. He stated that we aren't making the decision now, we just have this bond hearing so the public and the board can give their thoughts and opinions. Gladu stated that it will be several months before the bonds are issued. Dowell stated that it makes sense to save money over time by not paying interest for a longer time period but wait and see what the interest rates are.

Public comments: Detherage asked if there were any public comments and there were none.

Written testimony: Gladu stated that no written testimony was received.

A motion was made by Walker with a second by Deitrich to exit a public hearing concerning the intent of the Board of Education of the District to sell \$3,900,000 Building Bonds for the purpose of building and equipping an addition to the LaHarpe Elementary/Junior High School Building, altering, repairing, and equipping the existing facilities of the School District and improving the sites thereof at 6:07pm. Roll Call: Deitrich – yes; Burt- yes; Gebhardt – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Walker – yes; Blythe - Absent. Motion Carried 6-0.

Cafeteria Addition Schematic Design Presentation: Architechnics presented a booklet and discussed their progress. He went over project goals. He mentioned that we may need to readjust the freezer to the South side to give a place for a delivery truck. Walker asked if it could go to the North but that is not possible because that is where the classrooms are. Detherage stated that with it just being 4 feet from the road maybe they can just unload deliveries from the road. Architect stated there would be concrete so delivery drivers would not have to be walking through wet grass or snow. There will be 4 feet drop so it will be an elevated platform. The new cafeteria will hold 170 students. There will be windows in the cafeteria as well as in the principal's office. Burt asked if the storage is adequate. Architect stated that there is adequate storage. The cost estimate is \$3.9 million and this includes updating the 2 existing bathrooms in the lobby and the window film. Gladu asked if the window film cost could be separated out of the estimate because she believes she can pay for that out of another fund. Architect agreed and said he would separate it out. The total cost is about \$450 per square foot. In the estimate the architect provided there was a cost for Communications/Telephone Data system and Fire Alarm System. Gladu asked that those be removed from the estimate because she thinks she can pay for them out of other funds. Architect agreed and will remove them from the estimate. The next step is for the district to agree on 20 or 25 year then they can move

forward. Burt mentioned the condensation and heating/cooling issues the building currently has and asked if this will be alleviated with the new building. Architect stated that the new addition will have its own HVAC system. Detherage asked how soon they need a decision and the architect replied as soon as possible so they can meet their other deadlines. The Board discussed it and decided to have a business meeting during the next board meeting to decide. Gladu stated she would meet with the cafeteria managers to discuss what equipment they need/don't need. The board discussed when to review the plans. The board elected to add the item to the July Regular Board Meeting.

2024-2025 Amended Budget Presentation: Gladu stated that we were able to spend down some of our reserves, which was our goal. Our "big" purchases were new desks/chairs for all staff, floor mats, camera system, 2 buses (one in cash) and a new mini-van. We are ending in the positive and still waiting on some grant payments (which may arrive after 1 July).

2024-2025 Administrative Costs: Liz/Shelly, Laura and Gladu's salary and expenses all go in the same expense categories with a limit increase of 5% per year. We ended the year with 1% increase in administrative costs.

2024-2025 Amended Budget: A motion was made by Gebhardt with a second by Deitrich to approve the amended 2024-2025 budget. Roll Call: Deitrich – yes; Burt- yes; Gebhardt – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Walker – yes; Blythe - Absent. Motion Carried 6-0

2025-2026 Fuel Bids: We have received one fuel bid from West Central FS of \$2.455 per gallon for Unleaded w/Ethanol (corn) 87 Octane firm bid and \$2.2455 variable bid per gallon, plus taxed.

A motion was made by Gebhardt with a second by Detherage to accept the fuel bid for the 2025-2026 school year in the amount of firm bid of \$2.455 from West Central FS. Roll Call: Deitrich – yes; Burt- yes; Gebhardt – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Walker – yes; Blythe - Absent. Motion Carried 6-0.

Bus Disposition: 2 bids were received for the bus. One was from Ken Foster in the amount of \$800 and one was from Carson Purdy in the amount of \$500. Burt stated that he thinks the scrap price is higher. Deitrich asked what shape the tires were in. She mentioned pulling them off before scrapping it. Detherage stated that they are almost new and they would pull them before scrapping it, they can be used as spares for other buses. Detherage asked the board if they wanted to reject the bids and everyone stated yes. The board decided to see what the scrap price is and repost with minimum bid at the scrap price. Walker brought up donating the bus to the fire department for training. No bids were accepted.

Policy Updates: A motion was made by Detherage with a second by Walker to approve the policy updates as presented. Roll Call: Deitrich – yes; Burt- yes; Gebhardt – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Walker – yes; Blythe - Absent. Motion Carried 6-0.

Student Handbook Updates: There are several updates to the Student Handbook. Equal Education Opportunities and Sex Equity is updated to align with federal law and policy. Student Absences is updated to align with new state law. Home and Hospital Instruction is updated to align with new state law. Vandalism is a new section that allows us to charge students to replace/repair items they have damaged. Student medication is updated to align with policy and states when students are allowed to possess and administer self-medication. Guidance and Counseling is updated to align with state law. Expecting/parenting students and Students that are victims is updated to align with state law. Student

behavior is updated to align with policy. Long term suspension is updated to align with state law.

Harassment and Dating Violence is updated to align with current Title IX procedures.

A motion was made by Deitrich with a second by Gebhardt to approve the 2025-2026 Student Handbook.

Roll Call: Deitrich – yes; Burt- yes; Gebhardt – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Walker – yes; Blythe - Absent. Motion Carried 6-0.

Johnson Ground Solar Proposed Project Lease Review: The City Council is in discussion with a solar company to place solar on parts of the Johnson Ground. They have asked us to have our attorney review the contract. Our legal counsel said they would review the lease (from the benefit of the district). This would create substantial increases in revenue for the district. Detherage stated that he went to the city council meeting when they discussed this. Dowell stated that our only involvement in this is that we get revenue from it so why can't their lawyer review it? Is the city willing to pay the bill for the districts legal counsel? Detherage stated they are not. Either way it will end up that the district pays for counsel. They will take it out of the Johnson Ground Money. Detherage stated that the districts law firm has a solar lease person. Dowell stated that the community should get to vote on the solar panels. Burt stated that the decision is ultimately up to the city. The city controls the Johnson ground. Detherage stated again that we are just deciding if we want to pay for the attorney from the district firm or not. If we don't they will just use their attorney and take the money out of the Johnson money to pay for it. Either way the district will be paying for the attorney.

A motion was made by Burt with a second by Detherage to work with the LaHarpe City Council and the school district's legal counsel in reviewing the "Agreement for Solar Energy Ground Lease". Roll Call Deitrich – yes; Burt- no; Gebhardt – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – no; Walker – yes; Blythe - Absent. Motion Carried 4-2.

Reports:

Board Committee – Detherage stated they had their first negotiation meeting and things are progressing. Hopefully we will have a contract by the start of school.

Gebhardt had to leave the meeting at 6:45pm

Board Members – Dowell stated that she has been asked by several people if the lights in the school parking lot can be turned off during the fourth of July fireworks. Gladu stated that she would ask Michael. Burt asked if we have had any applicants for the jobs that we have posted. Gladu stated that we have had several applicants for the Paraprofessional job and we have had no applications turned in for the Special Education Position. Burt asked if there was anyone in house that was certified that we could fill the position with if we get no applicants. Gladu stated that we have some in house that are certified but they are already placed in other positions. Carrie Finch is certified but is established in Pre-K. Susan Pratt is certified but is in JH Special Education Room. Gladu is certified and John Draws is certified but is hired for Music. Burt asked about moving someone to that position if no one applies since all teachers are hired as "certified staff" as stated at the last board meeting. Walker stated that if you force someone to work in a teaching position they aren't hired for, they will not continue to work here. Gladu stated that we have contingency plan if no one applies. She stated that she will have a recommendation for the para professional jobs by July.

Principal/Transportation Director/Athletic Director: Hopper stated that 8th grade graduation went great. He has heard a lot of positive things. He wanted to give special recognition to Aubrey Porter for her poem that

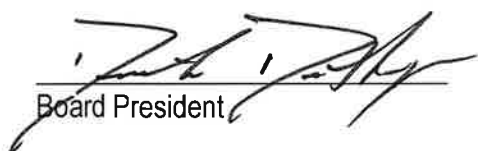
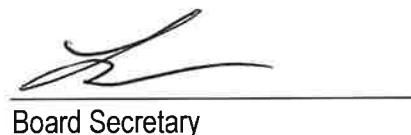
she wrote. He is sure that she will continue this in the future. Students and public loved it. There was great growth from this 8th grade class. It was a longer ceremony but 6 of the students wanted to speak. Growth was a word that stuck out to Hopper as he was reflecting on the year from students and staff. Hopper stated that he feels like our staff showed great care and commitment to the students this year and he feels like the students see this and truly appreciate it. The students became more and more committed because of the relationships our staff have built with them. Registration is Tuesday, August 5th.

Athletic Director – he stated that baseball tryouts are Monday and Tuesday, Aug 4th and 5th at 3:30. Open gyms are currently taking place for GBB and the Boys coaches are working on times and dates. Schedules and officials for next year have been finalized.

Transportation – the drivers are scheduled to take their refresher course on July 10th in La Harpe. The drivers meeting to start the school year will be Wednesday, August 13th.

Superintendent: Superintendent Gladu reported that Amy Simmons was our Team Member of the Year. She stated that Dallas City has requested an athletic co-op meeting. Gladu talked with the committee and found the 28th or 29th will work. She will send the dates to Mrs. Tucker to see what works for them. Burt asked if he could get a copy of the Athletic Co-Op Agreement. Gladu stated that she will send a copy to all the board members.

A motion was made by Detherage with a second by Deitrich to adjourn the June 2025 board meeting at 6:56pm. (Voice Vote)


Board President
Board Secretary

