MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF LA HARPE SCHOOL DISTRICT #347 IN THE PD ROOM ON JULY 27, 2026.

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Gebhardt at 6:00pm in the PD Room. The following board members answered roll call. Blyth, Burt, Deitrich, Dowell, Gebhardt, and Walker. Board President Detherage was absent. Also present were Interim Superintendent Grimm, Principal Hopper, and Board Secretary McCarter. Visitor in attendance was Laura Jones.

Vice President Gebhardt led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Interim Superintendent Grimm encouraged the Board to spend a few minutes at each meeting highlighting the good things that are happening in the district.

GOOD NEWS ITEMS:

- Great progress so far with the building addition.
- Summer projects are wrapping up and the building inside and out is looking good and will be ready for the first day of school.
- The painting that has been done in the hallways looks great.
- Superintendent Grimm praised Ryan, Michael and the Central Office Staff for the work that has been done this summer.

APPROVE AGENDA:

Motion by Blythe with a second by Walker to approve the agenda as presented. Roll Call Blythe – yes; Burt- yes; Dowell – yes; Deitrich – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Detherage – absent; Walker – yes. Motion Carried 6-0.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

There were no comments from the public.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion by Gebhardt with a second by Dowell to approve the Consent Agenda including the following items:

- Approval of the Audit Engagement Letter
- Approval of the Internet Policy
- Approval of the September Budget Hearing Date – September 23, 2026
- Approval of Waiving Registration Fees for 26/27 School Year
- Approval of Boiler Contract
- Approval of Serious Safety Hazardous Route, Timberview Dr. and North 2nd Street
- Approval of Integrated Pest Management Plan
- Approval of Renaissance Renewal
- Approval of 26/27 Student Handbook
- Approval of Proposed Revisions to Board Policies, Administrative Procedures and Exhibits – First Reading.
  a. 2:70-E - Checklist for Filling Board Vacancies by Appointment
  b. 2:120-E3 - Resolution to Appoint a Delegate to the IASB Delegate Assembly

c. 2:220-E1 - Board Treatment of Closed Meeting Verbatim Recordings and Minutes
d. 2:220-E3 - Closed Meeting Minutes
e. 2:220-E5 - Semi-Annual Review of Closed Meeting Minutes
f. 2:220-E8 - School Board Records Maintenance Requirements and FAQ's
g. 2:230 - Public Participation at School Board Meetings and Petitions to the Board
h. 3:70 - Succession of Authority
i. 4:110-AP2 - Bus Driver Communication Devices; Pre-Trip and Post-Trip Inspection; and Bus Driving Comments
j. 4:170-AP1, E2 - Accident or Injury Form
k. 4:170-AP1, E2 - Memo to Staff Members Regarding Contacts by Media About a Crisis
l. 4:170-AP2 - Routine Communications Concerning Safety and Security
m. 4:170-AP4 - National Terrorism Advisory System
n. 4:175 - Convicted Sex Offender; Screening; Notifications
o. 4:180-AP1 - School Action Steps for Pandemic Influenza or Other Virus/Disease
p. 5:20-AP - Sample Questions and Considerations for Conducting the Internal Harassment in the Workplace Investigation
q. 5:40 - Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease
r. 5:40-AP - Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease
s. 5:70 - Religious Holidays
t. 5:100-AP - Staff Development Program
u. 5:110 - Recognition for Services
v. 5:130-AP - Email Retention
w. 5:140 - Solicitations By or From Staff
x. 5:185-AP - Resource Guide for Family and Medical Leave
y. 5:220-E - Unsatisfactory Performance Report for Substitute Teachers
z. 5:240 - Suspensions
aa. 5:270-E - Notice of Employment
bb. 6:60-AP1, E2 - Resources for Biking and Walking Safety Education
cc. 6:70 - Teaching About Religions
dd. 6:70-AP - Teaching About Religions
ee. 6:80 - Teaching About Controversial Issues
ff. 6:120-AP4 - Care of Students with Diabetes
gg. 6:190 - Extracurricular and Co-Curricular Activities
hh. 6:235-E4 - Online Safety Resources (Renamed)
ii. 7:30 - Student Assignment and Intra-District Transfer
jj. 7:60-AP1 - Challenging a Student's Residence Status
kk. 7:60-AP2 - Establishing a Student Residency
ll. 7:60-AP2, E1 - Letter of Residence from Landlord in Lieu of Lease
mm. 7:60-AP2, E2 - Letters of Residence to Be Used When the Person Seeking to Enroll a Student is Living with a District Resident
nn. 7:60-AP2, E3 - Evidence of Non-Parent's Custody, Control, and Responsibility of a Student
oo. 7:80 - Release Time for Religious Instruction/Observance
pp. 7:130 - Student Rights and Responsibilities
qq. 7:190-E1 - Aggressive Behavior Reporting Letter and Form
rr. 7:189-E4 - Acknowledgment of Receiving Student Behavior Policy and Student Conduct Code
ss. 7:200-E1 - Short Term Out-of-School Suspension (1-3 Days) Reporting Form
tt. 7:240-AP1 - Code of Conduct for Extracurricular Activities

uu. 7:330 - Student Use of Building - Equal Access
vv. 7:330-E - Application to Establish Noncurriculum Related Student Groups That Are Not School Sponsored and Request for Free Use of School Premises for Meeting
ww. 8:10 - Connection with the Community
xx. 8:70 - Accommodating Individuals with Disabilities

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Dowell with a second by Deitrich to approve the following board meeting minutes.

A. Athletic Co-op Committee Meeting, June 15, 2026
B. Special Meeting, June 18, 2026
C. Closed Session, June 18, 2026
D. Regular Meeting, June 23, 2026
E. Closed Session, June 23, 2026 as amended
F. Special Meeting, July 6, 2026 as amended
G. Closed Session, July 6 2026

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

PAYMENT OF BILLS:

Discussion was had regarding the price of the school insurance. The board was advised that it would be a good idea to get a bid for this next year.

Motion was made by Blythe with a second by Burt to approve the payment of bills, the approval of the Fund Balance Report, and the Approval of the District Financial Report. Roll Call Blythe – yes; Burt- yes; Dowell – yes; Deitrich – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Detherage – absent; Walker – yes. Motion Carried 6-0.

ACTION ITEMS:

BOARD MEETING DATES:

It was discussed that the next couple board meeting dates due to the public hearing.

Motion was made by Dowell with a second by Gebhardt to approve the list of Board Meeting Dates, Times, and Locations as presented. Roll Call Blythe – yes; Burt- yes; Dowell – yes; Deitrich – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Detherage – absent; Walker – yes. Motion Carried 6-0.

PRICING FOR MEALS FOR 26/27 SCHOOL YEAR:

A motion was made by Deitrich with a second by Blythe to approve the Breakfast and Lunch Prices for students and staff as presented. Roll Call Blythe – yes; Burt- yes; Dowell – yes; Deitrich – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Detherage – absent; Walker – yes. Motion Carried 6-0.

Discussion was had regarding the school providing meals to the staff for free. Superintendent Grimm is going to look into this.

SPORTS CO-OP AGREEMENT:

Discussion was had regarding changes that were discussed at the Co-Op meeting in July regarding playing students up when numbers are low, and sharing cost when teams advance to the State Tournaments.

A motion was made by Dowell with a second by Deitrich to approve the changes to the co-op agreement as presented. Roll Call Blythe – yes; Burt- yes; Dowell – yes; Deitrich – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Detherage – absent; Walker – yes. Motion Carried 6-0.

CONSOLIDATED DISTRICT PLAN:

A motion was made by Blythe with a second by Gebhardt to approve the Consolidated District Plan as presented. Roll Call Blythe – yes; Burt- yes; Dowell – yes; Deitrich – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Detherage – absent; Walker – yes. Motion Carried 6-0.

REPORTS:

The Board heard a report from Board Vice President Gebhardt concerning the Building Project and Boiler Project Team meeting held earlier on Monday. Things regarding both projects seem to be moving forward as planned. In addition, the Board discussed a proposed change order regarding adding an alarm system to the new freezer that will be installed. The alarm system will alert staff if the internal temperature in the freezer drops below a certain level. The cost of this change order is approximately $3,300. All board members were in favor of the change order. There was extensive discussion on the fence being put up around all of the construction materials. Superintendent Grimm is on top of this. There was also discussion regarding cleaning up the playground behind the solar field, the weeds around the building and other projects in the building. The boiler project is in progress as well. The solar project is still in the works, right now it is just waiting on an electrician so Ameren can do their testing.

The Board heard a report from Superintendent Grimm. He stated he was on site 6 days in July but worked closely with the office staff. There is a revolving list that is worked to make sure nothing is missed. Superintendent Grimm stated that he has met with Mr. Hopper and things are falling into place for TI Days. Laura and Mr. Kenser have been working on the budget and it is coming along well. He stated that we are fully staffed and teachers have already been in the building getting ready for the beginning of school.

The Board heard a report from Mr. Hopper regarding Athletics/Transportation and Principal items. He said Michael and his group are on target to have things ready for students. IW will use our cafeteria for in person registration. Our registration is Aug 4 from 12-6. Baseball tryouts are coming up and they will last for 2 days with games beginning shortly after. Transportation wise we are fully staffed and next week they will get their routes and student lists.

Vice President Gebhardt brought up the back to school lunch that they board always prepares for the staff.

The Board reviewed a document created to outline for our parents the most recent immunization requirements for children as a condition of attending LaHarpe Elementary. The Board agreed to a request to post this document on the District web page and to push out to parents via the district Facebook page.

Board members took this time to ask questions of the administration regarding certain issues. Mr. Grimm gave a brief report on several topics and Mr. Hopper discussed several things he is working on as the building principal, the district athletic director and as District Transportation Director.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

The Board identified the following items as Future Agenda Items: Discuss donating to Illini West Sports Boosters Bathroom Project. Discuss providing free lunches to staff. Discuss waiving gate fees for 5th-8th grade students from La Harpe and Dallas City for sporting events at La Harpe. Discuss Curriculum Meeting.

CLOSED SESSION:

A motion was made by Dowell with a second by Deitrich to adjourn to closed session at 7:24pm 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; Dowell – yes; Deitrich – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Detherage – absent; Walker – yes. Motion Carried 6-0.

Discussion was had regarding personnel matters.

A motion was made by Dowell with a second by Deitrich to adjourn the closed session at 7:44pm. Majority of Ayes by voice vote. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Blythe with a second by Gebhardt to return to open session at 7:44pm. Majority of Ayes by voice vote. Motion carried.

Meeting was called to order at 7:44pm by Vice President Gebhardt. Roll Call Blythe – yes; Burt- yes; Dowell – yes; Deitrich – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Detherage – absent; Walker – yes. Motion Carried 6-0.

ACTION AFTER CLOSED SESSION:

A. Retirements/Leaves – None
B. Transfers – None
C. Resignation – Randy Shumaker – District Bus Driver.

A motion was made by Burt with a second by Deitrich to approve the resignation of district bus driver Randy Shumaker as presented. Roll Call Blythe – yes; Burt- yes; Dowell – yes; Deitrich – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Detherage – absent; Walker – yes. Motion Carried 6-0.

D. Extracurricular Employment – Mr. Hopper recommended that the district hire Kevin Mershon and Stephen Fernetti as volunteer Baseball Coaches for the 2026 season.

A motion was made by Dowell with a second by Walker to approve the appointment of Kevin Mershon and Stephen Fernetti as volunteer coaches for the 2026 baseball season. Roll Call

Blythe – yes; Burt- yes; Dowell – yes; Deitrich – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Detherage – absent; Walker – yes. Motion Carried 6-0.

E. Employment
    a. Nate McCarter – District Bus Driver

A motion was made by Walker with a second by Gebhardt to hire Nate McCarter as a district bus driver as presented. Roll Call Blythe – yes; Burt- yes; Dowell – yes; Deitrich – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Detherage – absent; Walker – yes. Motion Carried 6-0.

    b. Kevin Driskell – Substitute Bus Driver

A motion was made by Blythe with a second by Burt to hire Kevin Driskell as a substitute bus driver pending completion of all requirements needed to hold that position. Roll Call Blythe – yes; Burt- yes; Dowell – yes; Deitrich – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Detherage – absent; Walker – yes. Motion Carried 6-0.

Discussion was had just clarifying that he will not be able to start driving a bus until all the requirements are met.

FUTURE MEETING DATES AND TIME:

A. The board was reminded the next regular Board Meeting will be held on Monday, August 24, 2026 in the PD Room at 6:00pm.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Blythe with a second by Walker to adjourn the July 27, 2026 board meeting at 7:48pm. Majority of Ayes by Voice Vote. Motion carried.

THESE MINUTES ARE APPROVED AS WRITTEN THIS 24th DAY OF AUGUST, 2026.

Dustin Detherage, Board President

Liz McCarter, Board Secretary