

The Board of Education of LaHarpe Community School District #347 held a special School Board meeting on 4 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, Walker and Deitrich. Principal Ryan Hopper was also in attendance.

Visitors in attendance: None

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

A Moment of Silence was observed.

Public Comment: None

Business Items:

A motion was made by Gebhardt with a second by Burt to approve the Items on the Agenda as presented. Roll Call: Blythe- yes; Burt – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Walker – yes; Deitrich – yes Motion Carried 6 – yay, 0 – abstain, 0 – nay, 0 – Absent: Motion Carried: 7-0.

A motion was made by Dowell with a second by Deitrich to adjourn to closed session at 6:01pm to discuss (1)The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or a volunteer of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity. However, a meeting to consider an increase in compensation to a specific employee of a public body that is subject to the Local Government Wage Increase Transparency Act may not be closed and shall be open to the public and posted and held in accordance with [the Open Meetings Act]. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1). Roll Call: Blythe- yes; Burt – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Walker – yes; Deitrich – yes Motion Carried 6 – yay, 0 – abstain, 0 – nay, 0 – Absent: Motion Carried: 7-0.

Detherage called closed session to order at 6:03pm on June 4, 2026. Roll Call: Blythe- yes; Burt – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Walker – yes; Deitrich – yes Motion Carried 6 – yay, 0 – abstain, 0 – nay, 0 – Absent: Motion Carried: 7-0.

A motion was made by Deitrich with a second by Dowell to adjourn the closed session at 9:15pm. (voice vote)

A motion was made by Dowell with a second by Walker to return to open session at 9:16pm. (voice vote)

Meeting was called to order at 9:16pm. Roll Call: Blythe- yes; Burt – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Walker – yes; Deitrich – yes Motion Carried 6 – yay, 0 – abstain, 0 – nay, 0 – Absent: Motion Carried: 7-0.

A motion was made by Detherage with second by Blythe to hire Cindy Pollock as a part time Title I Teacher. Roll Call: Blythe- yes; Burt – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Walker – yes; Deitrich – yes Motion Carried 6 – yay, 0 – abstain, 0 – nay, 0 – Absent: Motion Carried: 7-0.

A motion was made by Detherage with a second by Gebhardt to hire Brenda Sparrow as a part time Title I Teacher. Roll Call: Blythe- yes; Burt – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Walker – yes; Deitrich – yes Motion Carried 6 – yay, 0 – abstain, 0 – nay, 0 – Absent: Motion Carried: 7-0.

A motion was made by Gebhardt with a second by Deitrich to hire Melissa Burt as a certified staff member. Roll Call: Blythe- yes; Burt – abstain; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Walker – yes; Deitrich – yes Motion Carried 6 – yay, 1 – abstain, 0 – nay, 0 – Absent: Motion Carried: 6-1-0.

Motion by Detherage with a second by Gebhardt to rehire Ryan Hopper as Transportation Director with a \$7200 stipend. Roll Call: Blythe- yes; Burt – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Walker – yes; Deitrich – yes Motion Carried 6 – yay, 0 – abstain, 0 – nay, 0 – Absent: Motion Carried: 7-0.

A motion was made by Gebhardt with a second by Blythe to approve the amended salary increases for non-LEA, excluding administration. Roll Call: Blythe- yes; Burt – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Walker – yes; Deitrich – yes Motion Carried 6 – yay, 0 – abstain, 0 – nay, 0 – Absent: Motion Carried: 7-0.

A motion was made by Blythe with a second by Burt to approve moving the gas line for the cafeteria project using the money that was already built in the contingency amount in the original contract in the amount of \$17,376.48. Roll Call: Blythe- yes; Burt – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Walker – yes; Deitrich – yes Motion Carried 7 – yay, 0 – abstain, 0 – nay, 0 – Absent: Motion Carried: 7-0.

A motion was made by Dowell with a second by Walker to approve the fist payment to Maas Construction for the cafeteria addition. Roll Call: Blythe- yes; Burt – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Walker – yes; Deitrich – yes Motion Carried 7 – yay, 0 – abstain, 0 – nay, 0 – Absent: Motion Carried: 7-0.

Board had discussion on moving and adjusting classrooms due to construction.

Board had discussion on attorney expenditures.

The board discussed the renewal of the CDARS deposit.

A motion was made by Dowell with a second by Blythe to renew the CDARS deposit, reinvesting \$675,000 for 13 weeks. Roll Call: Blythe- yes; Burt – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Walker – yes; Deitrich – yes Motion Carried 7 – yay, 0 – abstain, 0 – nay, 0 – Absent: Motion Carried: 7-0.

A motion was made by Detherage with a second by Deitrich to adjourn the June 4, 2026 special board meeting at 9:45pm. Roll Call: Blythe- yes; Burt – yes; Detherage – yes; Dowell – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Walker – yes; Deitrich – yes Motion Carried 7 – yay, 0 – abstain, 0 – nay, 0 – Absent: Motion Carried: 7-0.

  
Board President

Not in Attendance  
Board Secretary

6-23-26  
Date Approved

