

The Board of Education of LaHarpe Community School District #347 held a special School Board meeting on 6 July 2026 in the Board room. Vice President Josh Gebhardt called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Roll call was answered by, Dowell, Burt, Gebhardt, Blythe and Deitrich. Principal Ryan Hopper and Board Secretary Liz McCarter were 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 Burt with a second by Blythe to approve the Items on the Agenda as presented. Roll Call: Burt – yes; Detherage – absent; Dowell – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Walker – Absent; Deitrich – yes; Blythe – yes. Motion Carried 5 – yay, 0 – abstain, 0 – nay, 2 – Absent: Motion Carried: 5-0.

A motion was made by Burt with a second by Dowell to approve the request for payment two from Maas Construction in the amount of \$317,353.43. Roll Call: Burt – yes; Detherage – absent; Dowell – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Walker – Absent; Deitrich – yes; Blythe – yes. Motion Carried 5 – yay, 0 – abstain, 0 – nay, 1 – Absent: Motion Carried: 5-0.

Discussion was had on the bill from Architechnics for the boilers. There was discussion about lowering the threshold that Superintendents can spend in the future without board approval. Burt asked if we could change the way things like this are handled in the future. Dowell stated that building improvements should go through the board.

A motion was made by Blythe with a second by Deitrich to approve the payment of \$5,000 to Architechnics. Roll Call: Burt – yes; Detherage – absent; Dowell – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Walker – Absent; Deitrich – yes; Blythe – yes. Motion Carried 5 – yay, 0 – abstain, 0 – nay, 1 – Absent: Motion Carried: 5-0.

A motion was made by Dowell with a second by Deitrich to adjourn to closed session at 6:10pm 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: Burt – yes; Detherage – absent;

Dowell – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Walker – Absent; Deitrich – yes; Blythe – yes. Motion Carried 5 – yay, 0 – abstain, 0 – nay, 1 – Absent: Motion Carried: 5-0.

Gebhardt called closed session to order at 6:13pm on July 6, 2026. Roll Call: Burt – yes; Detherage – absent; Dowell – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Walker – Absent; Deitrich – yes; Blythe – yes. Motion Carried 5 – yay, 0 – abstain, 0 – nay, 1 – Absent: Motion Carried: 5-0.

A motion was made by Deitrich with a second by Dowell to adjourn closed session at 7:25pm. Motion carried. (voice vote)

A motion was made by Dowell with a second by Blythe to return to open session at 7:05pm. (voice vote)

A motion was made by Blythe with a second by Deitrich to hire Ralph Grimm as certified staff member at a rate of \$900 per day. Roll Call: Burt – yes; Detherage – absent; Dowell – yes; Gebhardt – yes; Walker – Absent; Deitrich – yes; Blythe – yes. Motion Carried 5 – yay, 0 – abstain, 0 – nay, 1 – Absent: Motion Carried: 5-0.

A motion was made by Gebhardt with a second by Dowell to adjourn the July 7, 2026 special board meeting at 7:28pm. Motion carried. (voice vote)



Board President



Board Secretary

7-27-26

Date Approved