

Minutes of the Board of Education Meeting of Hawthorn Community Consolidated District #73, Lake County, Illinois conducted remotely per Executive Order 2020-07 in response to COVID-19.

7:00 p.m. on the 10th day of December, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

President Robin Cleek called the Board of Education meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Attendance was taken in the closed session prior to the open meeting. The following members attended remotely, Joel Finfer, George Fievet, Victoria Helander-Heiser, Sonali Patil, Wesley Polen, Matt Jacobs and Robin Cleek. Also attending remotely were Asst. Supt. of Business & Finance LeeAnn Taylor and Asst. Supt. of Teaching, Learning & Innovation Allison Stein. Asst. Supt. for Human Resources, Adam Palmer and Superintendent Dr. Pete Hannigan were both present at the District Office.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The Superintendent's Assistant read the public comments into the record.

Alma Miranda, 8 Altoona Ct, Vernon Hills

Gwen Janzen, 269 Danbury Drive, Vernon Hills

Leslie Getlin, 179 Sheffield Lane, Vernon Hills

Dorothy Wozniak, Dorothy Wozniak, 720 Telluride Ct, Vernon Hills

Heather Rabbitt, 208 Ashland Ct, Vernon Hills

Ann Binkley, 217 Atlantic Drive, Vernon Hills

Emily Dorgan, 503 Hemlock Lane, Libertyville

Kimberly Friedrich, 1138 Weeping Willow Lane, Libertyville

Cara Benjamin, 522 Council Circle, Vernon Hills

Melisa Stephen, 1008 Dolores Court, Indian Creek

Carolyn Herman, 295 Noble Circle, Vernon Hills

Joanna Slaby, 716 N Telluride Court, Vernon Hills

Simran Dang, 202 Arcadia Court, Vernon Hills

Margaret Clark, 1134 Dawes Street, Libertyville

Jessica Kruswicki, 143 Depot Street, Vernon Hills

Shelly Draper, 367 Marseilles Street, Vernon Hills

Mariana Buchman, 214 Amber Lane, Vernon Hills

Craig Doescher 14 Montgomery Lane, Vernon Hills

Tania Silva, 14 Montgomery Lane, Vernon Hills

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice President Wesley Polen announced that today the School of Dual Language held their annual holiday celebration for Aprendiendo Jugando students. Due to Covid restrictions it featured a car parade in which teachers and staff greeted students and Santa Claus packed presents into each car. She thanked the event's organizers, Laura Gitzinger and Marissa Brandt, as well as the numerous staff who participated. She also thanked parents, community members and businesses, such as BD, Snickelfritz Toys, Culvers of Mundelein and Dreamland Comics, for their generous contributions.

PRESENTATIONS

D73 Return to Learning Update: Dr. Hannigan provided an update on the Return to Learning Plan. Presenting with him were Assistant Superintendent of Teaching, Learning and Innovation Allison Stein, Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Business Operations LeeAnn Taylor and Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Adam Palmer.

Dr. Hannigan thanked families for registering their children for either the hybrid or the remote learning options. The presentation focused on three topics, the Lake County Health Department metrics, the registration for hybrid or remote learning and the parent feedback for remote learning.

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Dr. Hannigan said that the District has made it a top priority to get students back in classrooms, as there is no substitute for in-person learning. As soon as public health entities declare that transmission levels have returned to a moderate rate, the District will move forward with implementing its hybrid model. Families will be given a minimum of two weeks' notice prior to the implementation of the hybrid model.

Ms. Stein said that the Board has approved the hybrid model for all grades. Families have registered their children in either the hybrid or remote learning options. Ms. Taylor reported that 52% of families selected the hybrid model, while 48% selected the remote learning option. During the week of Jan. 4, families who selected the hybrid model will receive their class schedules as well as bus route schedules.

Ms. Stein said that the recent parent feedback survey helped the District identify families who were in need of assistance. Staff reached out to a number of families, helping them to connect with district services as well as community resources. For more information, please see the full presentation posted on our website at: www.hawthorn73.org/school-board/board-presentations.

District 73 Hiring Protocols: Adam Palmer, the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources presented hiring protocols and shared two key components, recruitment and selection. They are looking at additional partnerships with Universities to select highly qualified candidates and to partner with them in the student teaching process. A Staffing Plan will be presented this February, transfers will take place, vacancies will be posted, interviews will be conducted and final recommendations will be made.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Comcast Internet Essentials: LeeAnn Taylor, the Assistant Superintendent for Business & Finance discussed the current level of usage of hotspots and the cost thereof. The Key to 73 Foundation has donated \$18,000 to this initiative. However, as the need has continued to increase, Staff has looked into the Comcast Internet Essentials Program which is available to families who are eligible for public assistance programs; as an alternative to purchasing hotspots.

The District will serve as the sponsor to the subscribers (families) of the District and it has been named Eaglenet. Hawthorn would assist families with the application process and be billed for eligible households at a rate of \$9.95 per month which is a significant cost savings over the current practice of purchasing additional hotspots. Currently the Key to 73 has a fundraiser for this project. This agreement will be presented at the January meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Hannigan informed us that the Village met on December 8th, and with regard to the redevelopment of the AMC Theater, the 180 unit age-restricted development would normally not qualify for impact fees. However, the village did not waive the impact fee for the redevelopment of this project. As such, Hawthorn expects to receive \$112,000 from the developer contingent upon the village approving their building permit. Happy holidays to everyone for a safe and healthy winter break.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Cleek wished everyone happy holidays and asked Board members to volunteer to assist with answering emails. Discussion ensued as to the scope of Board responses to the volume of emails received.

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ED-RED REPORT

Victoria Helander-Heiser indicated that ED-RED will have their annual legislative summit. This year it is a virtual summit on January 22nd and currently 18 legislators are scheduled to attend. They are focused on the funding of schools. Board members are encouraged to attend.

SEDOL REPORT

Matt Jacobs stated that the meeting was a recap to their teacher contract with all of the Covid updates. Humanex has been working with their staff to improve the overall satisfaction.

SITE & FACILITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

The next meeting was postponed to December 16th.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 7.1 Board Meeting Minutes, 11/12/20
- 7.2 Expenditure Report, December 2020
- 7.3 AM EX Report, October 2020
- 7.4 Amazon Cost Report, December 2020
- 7.5 Kindergarten Center Cost Log, November 2020
- 7.6 Treasurer's Report, June 2020
- 7.7 Treasurer's Report, July 2020
- 7.8 Treasurer's Report, August 2020
- 7.9 Treasurer's Report, September 2020
- 7.10 Personnel Report

New Hires: 1

Leave of Absence: 2

Resignations: 3

New Hires: Carl Gruebele, Technology Support Specialist, DO

Leaves of Absence: Stephanie Rusk, 5th Grade, EN; Chelsea Reuhl, Resource Teacher, ES

Resignations: Pat Luce, Music Teacher, Townline; Kathryn Morrison, Lunchroom/Recess Supervisor, DL; Nina Stair, Office Clerk, ES

Item **7.2 Expenditure Report for December 2020** was pulled out to be voted on separately.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: Sonali Patil moved that the Board of Education approve the **Expenditure Report for December 2020**; seconded by Wesley Polen.

Roll Call Vote: Wesley Polen, Sonali Patil, Robin Cleek, Joel Finfer, George Fievet, Victoria Helander-Heiser and Matt Jacobs.

Motion carried: 6 ayes; 0 nays, 1 abstain

RECOMMENDED MOTION: Joel Finfer moved that the Board of Education approve the remaining **Consent Agenda** items as presented; Wesley Polen.

Roll Call Vote: Wesley Polen, Sonali Patil, Robin Cleek, Joel Finfer, George Fievet, Victoria Helander-Heiser and Matt Jacobs.

Motion carried: 7 ayes; 0 nays

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CSBO LeeAnn Taylor discussed the Business Department items included on the agenda: The public hearing was conducted last month for the 2020 Property Tax Levy, it is a 4.2% increase over the previous levy. The supplemental levy is to access the funds over CPI because that was estimated. The third item is the approval of the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Village for the TIF agreement, we are looking to move forward to that agreement this evening. Also included is the one-year agreement for the Lincoln Early Learning Center which extends our partnership with Fremont 79 and Mundelein 75 Districts in order to utilize that space. The final item is the contract negotiation for our student lunch contract.

ACTION ITEMS

8.1 Resolution to Levy 2020 Property Tax

MOTION: Sonali Patil moved that the Board of Education approve the Resolution to Levy 2020 Property Tax as presented; Joel Finfer seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Wesley Polen, Sonali Patil, Robin Cleek, Joel Finfer, George Fievet, Victoria Helander-Heiser and Matt Jacobs.

Motion carried: 7 ayes; 0 nays

8.2 Resolution Authorizing a Supplemental Tax Levy to Pay the Principal of and Interest on Outstanding Limited Bonds of the District

MOTION: Sonali Patil moved that the Board of Education approve the **Resolution Authorizing a Supplemental Tax Levy to Pay the Principal of and Interest on Outstanding Limited Bonds of the District**; George Fievet seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Wesley Polen, Sonali Patil, Robin Cleek, Joel Finfer, George Fievet, Victoria Helander-Heiser and Matt Jacobs.

Motion carried: 7 ayes; 0 nays

8.3 Approval of the intergovernmental Agreement with the Village of Vernon Hills regarding the Hawthorn Mall TIF District

MOTION: Joel Finfer moved that the Board of Education approve the **Intergovernmental Agreement with the Village of Vernon Hills regarding the Hawthorn Mall TIF District**; George Fievet seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Wesley Polen, Sonali Patil, Robin Cleek, Joel Finfer, George Fievet, Victoria Helander-Heiser and Matt Jacobs.

Motion carried: 7 ayes; 0 nays

8.4 Approval of the Renewal of Shared Service Contract at the Early Learning Center

MOTION: Joel Finfer moved that the Board of Education approve the **Renewal of Shared Service Contract at the Early Learning Center**; Sonali Patil seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Wesley Polen, Sonali Patil, Robin Cleek, Joel Finfer, George Fievet, Victoria Helander-Heiser and Matt Jacobs.

Motion carried: 7 ayes; 0 nays

8.5 Approval of the Food Service Contract Amendment

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MOTION: Sonali Patil moved that the Board of Education approve the **Food Service Contract Amendment**; Joel Finfer seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Wesley Polen, Sonali Patil, Robin Cleek, Joel Finfer, George Fievet, Victoria Helander-Heiser and Matt Jacobs.

Motion carried: 7 ayes; 0 nays

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Enrollment
2. FOIA Log, Dr. Hannigan reported that there was 1 FOIA request received since the last board meeting, as identified in Section 9.2 of the Board agenda.
3. Board Email Log
4. Media Clips

TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION – None at this time.

ADJOURN THE OPEN MEETING – With no further business to discuss Joel Finfer made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Matt Jacobs, meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m. **All in favor.**

Motion carried: 7 ayes; 0 nays

Respectfully submitted,
Bobbi Elftmann

DocuSigned by:

Robin Cleek

1/15/2021

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Robin Cleek, President

DocuSigned by:

George Fievet

1/15/2021

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George Fievet, Secretary

Date Minutes Approved: 1/14/21