

**Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting and the Business Meeting of the
Board of Education of Hawthorn Community Consolidated District Number 73, Lake County, Illinois
held in the Board Room at 841 West End Court, Vernon Hills, IL 60061 at
7:00 p.m. on 13th day of November 2017**

CALL TO ORDER

Sonali Patil called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Wes Polen, Board Secretary, called the roll with the following Board of Education members answering present: Jayson Tran, Julie Simpson, Jeff Bard, Robin Cleek, Wes Polen, Matt Jacobs and Sonali Patil. Also present was Superintendent Nick Brown and Abe Singh, CSBO, Director of Finance and Business Operations.

PUBLIC COMMENT – No one from the public chose to comment.

PRESENTATIONS –

Exploring Preschool Programming at Lincoln Early Learning by Renee Ullberg, Director of Special Services

Renee Ullberg introduced Carol Bennett, Principal of the Lincoln building. Ms. Bennett and a team of teachers and specialists provided an overview of the Preschool and Early Childhood programs. The mission of the Lincoln Early Learning program is “building a community for our youngest learners” and the philosophy is “building independent learners through play”. The presentation concluded with a video showing a typical day in the classroom.

Presentation of New Hire by Abe Singh, Director of Finance & Business Operations

Mr. Singh presented Michael Christensen as the new Facilities Manager. Mr. Christensen will join Hawthorn 73 on December 4th and will overlap time with James Staples. Mr. Staples will retire in December with 37 years of service.

RECOGNITION – None scheduled

FINANCE – Proposed 2017 Tax Levy Recommendation

Abe Singh provided an overview of the proposed 2017 Tax Levy. For the 2017 levy, Mr. Singh is recommending that the Board of Education levy \$43,976,241 exclusive of Bonds and Interest, an increase of 4.95%, including the SEDOL IMRF levy, over last year. The total levy would be \$51,722,542 including the Bond and Interest obligation of \$7,746,301. The levy recommendation is predicted on the tax cap CPI limit at 2.10%, an estimated \$4.05 million in new construction and 6.46% additional for growth. Mr. Singh also reviewed the motions that will be presented for action. Robin Cleek asked if there was a way to separate existing homeowners from new development? Mr. Singh said no.

TRANSPORTATION – Lakeside Transportation Renewal

Sonali Patil reviewed the Lakeside Transportation renewal proposal. The overall increase on the district budget would be \$225,000. Libertyville School District 70 and the High School District 128 have decided to go out to bid. Mr. Singh supports Hawthorn 73 in joining the other two districts and proposes that Hawthorn work collaboratively on the bid packet over the next two weeks. This would go out to bid in mid-January with bids due on Friday, February 2, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Singh would like to make a recommendation to the board at the February 12, 2018 Board of Education meeting. Jeff Bard asked how a start time change at District 128 would affect Hawthorn 73? Mr. Singh stated our decision is based on logistics and is separate. Mr. Bard also asked if this would be a single year or multi-year contract? Mr. Singh feels it will be a multi-year contract and will bring more information as it becomes available.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – None scheduled

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – None scheduled

DISCUSSION ITEMS:*The Residences at Cuneo Mansion and Gardens, Woodland Chase and Melody Farms new neighborhoods building placement*

Sonali Patil reviewed previous discussion on the building placement for the new neighborhoods of The Residences at Cuneo Mansion and Gardens, Woodland Chase and Melody Farms. The administration has recommended that the Cuneo Mansion and Garden neighborhood be assigned to Elementary North and Middle School North. Woodland Chase and Melody Farms neighborhoods would be assigned to Aspen Elementary and Middle School South. Projected free/reduced percentages for the buildings were presented. Superintendent Brown received some information regarding Woodland Chase noting that the developer is only advertising the Lincolnshire 103/Stevenson High School districts. The developer has stated that he is only selling lots that would be in those boundaries which is very misleading. There has been no discussion of a detachment filing. Mr. Brown has not looked at making adjustments to other buildings. At this time, moving students from one building to another would just shift space issues. Once the new kindergarten building is open this may be a possibility.

Kindergarten Center student/teacher ratio

The kindergarten center presentation to the Village of Vernon Hills has been postponed to November 28th. The Village does have all necessary paperwork for this meeting. At the October 23rd Board of Education meeting, the schematic plan was approved and the process has now moved to the Design Phase. Superintendent Brown has sent a letter to the Aspen Drive Library requesting use of parking spaces during the school day. Traffic is the main concern on Aspen Drive. The Park District has concerns about the traffic pattern going around the Sullivan Center. A possible solution is for buses to exit on Atrium Drive toward Deerpath; there has been no resolution to this issue. Mr. Brown has a meeting on Wednesday pertaining to traffic.

The schematic design was reviewed. The layout included 16 classrooms, 4 maker spaces, an art studio and a dramatic play space. Additional space in the schematic design is the administrative area and sensory space. Ms. Patil reviewed the Kasarda enrollment Series B and C projections. She noted that the maker spaces can be converted to classroom space as needed. The Board provided parameters for the Plan Team to follow. This information was in Wes Polen's report that was presented to the team. Further discussion on reducing student/teacher ratio and the impact to future learning was held. Data was provided on student/teacher ratios for smaller class sizes. Consideration to the amount of space and dollars needed to accomplish smaller class sizes was discussed and the impact to future budgets. SB1947 is for funding and does not mandate classroom size.

Julie Simpson left the meeting at 8:02 and returned at 8:05.

Educational Facilities Master Plan "Where do we go from here?"

Ms. Patil asked board members for their thoughts regarding how to proceed with the Educational Facilities Master Plan and if the board would consider a referendum question. The next ballot date is March 2018 and the question would be due by January 2, 2018. If the board elected not to place a question on the March ballot, November 2018 would be the next date. The community opposed three points from the last ballot question: 1. Dollar amount was too high; 2. Against holding land for future use; 3. STEM Centers not clearly understood. Space remains an issue in the district and the middle school buildings will not get relief from the new kindergarten center. Since three board members are new and were not part of the EFMP, Ms. Patil asked if there was additional information they needed. Ms. Patil polled each board member for their opinion and all agreed a March ballot was not feasible. Since there is a large amount of information, Ms. Patil suggested breaking the EFMP in to parts. The board will begin this process at the next meeting.

Start Time Committee - 2019

Superintendent Brown will be forming a Start Time Committee for the 2019 school year. This committee will review district-wide start times and what the high school district is doing. The make-up of the group has not been designated but Mr. Brown would like to have a School Board member participate. Robin Cleek would like the invitation to participate be given to the entire community. She does not want the building principals selecting

parents. Mrs. Cleek would also like to have an elementary social worker and a middle school social worker be part of the committee.

Resolutions for Triple I Conference

Sonali Patil asked for a board member to volunteer to be the delegate at the Triple I conference. Julie Simpson volunteered. Resolutions requiring the Triple I delegate to vote on were discussed along with Board position on each resolution. Resolution 1: Student Safety & Protection – Board position: agree with recommendation; 2: School as Polling Place Reimbursement – Board position: agree with recommendation; 3. Financing Public Education-Local – Board position: oppose the recommendation; 5. PARCC Testing Results – Board position: agree with recommendation; 6. PTELL No Penalty Under Levy – Board position: agree with recommendation; 7. Financing Public Education – Board position: agree with the recommendation; 8. Energy Savings Contracting – Board position: oppose the recommendation.

Board position on potential legislative issues

Sonali Patil explained that this issue came about last week regarding possible legislation on the property tax freeze. As a community member, you can file a witness slip but not as a board unless it has been discussed prior. The administration can file on behalf of the board not as the district. Abe Singh reviewed SB851 which pertains to a proposed 2-year tax freeze. The House approved the bill 75-32-1. On November 19th, the Senate deferred the bill to Spring 2018. Ed Red is “the voice of suburban schools”, they lobby for approximately 85 districts from Lake, Cook and DuPage counties. Mr. Brown and Mr. Singh would like to have the ability to follow organizations and be able to go with the recommendation to file a witness paper when the board is unable to meet quickly. Jeff Bard stated that very clear and defined parameters would need to be provided from the board to Mr. Brown and Mr. Singh because a School Board member is an elected position. Jayson Tran, Julie Simpson, Wes Polen and Robin Cleek agreed. Ms. Patil indicated that Superintendent Brown would continue to keep the board informed and Board of Education members should continue to subscribe to publications to stay informed.

Julie Simpson left the meeting at 9:19 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT – Sonali Patil adjourned the Committee of the Whole meeting at 9:20 p.m.

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

CALL TO ORDER – Sonali Patil called the Regular Business Meeting to order at 9:20 p.m.

Julie Simpson returned to the meeting at 9:21 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Ms. Patil opened the public hearing regarding the 2017 Tax Levy. No one chose to comment.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- 11/13.41 Board minutes 10/23/17
- 11/13.42 Special Board Meeting minutes 10/26/17
- 11/13.43 Personnel: A-D
 - Leave of Absence:
 - A. Michelle Hill – 7th grade social studies teacher, MSS
 - B. Erica Swinney – 2nd grade teacher, AS
 - Retirement:
 - C. Dorothy Schrems – Building Technology Facilitator, ES/AS
 - New Hire:
 - D. Michael Christensen – Facilities Manager, DO
 - ESP: E.

Julie Simpson requested that Consent Agenda item 11/13.42 Special Board Meeting minutes 10/26/17 be moved to a separate motion.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: Jeff Bard moved that the Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda excluding 11/13.42 Special Board Meeting minutes 10/26/17 as presented. Robin Cleek seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Jayson Tran, Julie Simpson, Jeff Bard, Robin Cleek, Wes Polen, Matt Jacobs and Sonali Patil vote aye.

Motion carried: 7 ayes; 0 nay

RECOMMENDED MOTION #2: Jeff Bard moved that the Board of Education approve Consent Agenda item 11/13.42 Special Board Meeting minutes 10/26/17 as presented. Wes Polen seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Jayson Tran, Jeff Bard, Robin Cleek, Wes Polen, Matt Jacobs and Sonali Patil voted aye. Julie Simpson

Motion Carried: 6 ayes; 0 nay; 1 abstain

ACTION ITEMS:

11/13.44 2017 Tax Levy

Prior to the motion Robin Cleek voiced concerns regarding the 2017 Tax Levy proposal and will cast her vote because of the potential tax freeze. She would otherwise vote no because she feels the board is asking for too much. Jeff Bard added that the board has the option to give the community a rebate based on future budgets.

Motion #1: Julie Simpson moved that the Board of Education adopt the 2017 Tax Levy as presented by the Director of Finance and Business Operations. Matt Jacobs seconded the motion. Robin Cleek asked if the dollar amount needs to be added to the motion? Mr. Singh said no, the motion is presented the same as in the past and has been approved by legal counsel.

Roll Call Vote: Jayson Tran, Julie Simpson, Jeff Bard, Robin Cleek, Wes Polen, Matt Jacobs and Sonali Patil vote aye.

Motion carried: 7 ayes; 0 nay

Motion #2: Julie Simpson moved that the Board of Education approve the Special Education Tax Levy Resolution in the amount of \$380,572. Robin Cleek seconded the motion. No additional discussion.

Roll Call Vote: Jayson Tran, Julie Simpson, Jeff Bard, Robin Cleek, Wes Polen, Matt Jacobs and Sonali Patil vote aye.

Motion carried: 7 ayes; 0 nay

Motion #3: Julie Simpson moved that the Board of Education approve the Working Cash Fund Tax Levy Resolution as presented in the amount of \$49,654. Robin Cleek seconded the motion. No additional discussion.

Roll Call Vote: Jayson Tran, Julie Simpson, Jeff Bard, Robin Cleek, Wes Polen, Matt Jacobs and Sonali Patil vote aye.

Motion carried: 7 ayes; 0 nay

Motion #4: Robin Cleek moved that the Board of Education approve the Special Education District of Lake County IMRF Tax Levy Resolution as presented in the amount of \$95,222. Matt Jacobs seconded. No additional discussion.

Roll Call Vote: Jayson Tran, Julie Simpson, Jeff Bard, Robin Cleek, Wes Polen, Matt Jacobs and Sonali Patil vote aye.

Motion carried: 7 ayes; 0 nay

Motion #5: Sonali Patil moved that the Board of Education authorize the President to sign the Certificate of Compliance with the Truth in Taxation Act. Julie Simpson seconded motion. No additional discussion.

Roll Call Vote: Jayson Tran, Julie Simpson, Jeff Bard, Robin Cleek, Wes Polen, Matt Jacobs and Sonali Patil vote aye.

Motion carried: 7 ayes; 0 nay

Motion #6: Robin Cleek moved that the Board of Education authorize Working Cash Fund loans for cash flow needs in anticipation of the 2017 Tax Levy receipts. Jeff Bard seconded the motion. No additional discussion.

Roll Call Vote: Jayson Tran, Julie Simpson, Jeff Bard, Robin Cleek, Wes Polen, Matt Jacobs and Sonali Patil vote aye.

Motion carried: 7 ayes; 0 nay

Motion #7: Sonali Patil moved that the Board of Education authorize Resolution Declaring Intent to Retain Interest Earnings as Interest and Not to Accumulate as Principal. Jeff Bard seconded the motion. No additional discussion.

Roll Call Vote: Jayson Tran, Julie Simpson, Jeff Bard, Robin Cleek, Wes Polen, Matt Jacobs and Sonali Patil vote aye.

Motion carried: 7 ayes; 0 nay

11/13.45 The Residences at Cuneo Mansion and Gardens, Woodland Chase and Melody Farms new neighborhoods building placement.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: Julie Simpson moved that the Board of Education approve the building placement recommendation for the new neighborhood developments of The Residences at Cuneo Mansion and Gardens, Woodland Chase and Melody Farms as presented. Matt Jacobs seconded the motion.

Sonali Patil asked if there was additional discussion. Robin Cleek would like the specific building names added to the motion as she does not believe it is clear. Ms. Patil added that The Residences of Cuneo Mansion and Gardens would be assigned to Elementary North and Middle School North. Woodland Chase and Melody Farms would be assigned to Aspen Elementary and Middle School South.

Roll Call Vote: Jayson Tran, Julie Simpson, Jeff Bard, Robin Cleek, Wes Polen, Matt Jacobs and Sonali Patil vote aye.

Motion carried: 7 ayes; 0 nay

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Sonali Patil announced that School Board members would be attending the IASB/IASA/IASBO Conference November 17-19th in Chicago. Ms. Patil is watching the agendas for the Village of Vernon Hills and Park District meetings, if

Hawthorn 73 will be discussed she will alert other board members so that someone can attend the meeting. Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held on November 20th and 21st. Thanksgiving Break is next week, Happy Thanksgiving to all!

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Congratulations to the recipients of the Aspen All Star prize. These students worked hard to achieve their reading goals for the month of October and won their grade level raffle. Way to go readers! Congratulations to the following classrooms on winning the Aspen Eagle Award for the month of November Mrs. Howell, Mrs. Saliba and Miss Wolfson. Aspen Elementary will be celebrating American Education Week on Wednesday, November 15th. Parents have been invited to come and spend time in their child's classroom and participate in some learning activities. On November 9th, Middle School South Student Council hosted 65 area veterans to breakfast in honor of Veteran's Day. The veterans enjoyed performances by the chorus, band and orchestra. Students conducted interviews about their experiences while serving that will be shared with the student body at a later date. On November 17th, the School of Dual Language will be hosting Jasmin Cardenas a bilingual storyteller, she will perform for families at 6:30 p.m. The Dual Language kindergarten and 1st grade students will perform a Thanksgiving musical for families on November 20th at 10:30 a.m. Trimester 2 begins on November 17th. Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held on Monday, November 20th in the afternoon and during the day on November 21st; no school for all students. Thanksgiving break is November 22-24, no school for all students.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

1. The Board article
2. Hawthorn in the News

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

Robin Cleek attended the HSAP meeting on November 1st. Dr. Leali heads the group. Student representatives from all buildings come together to discuss a variety of issues. Topics included Chromebooks, food allergies and the cost of bottle water at lunch. Mrs. Cleek is impressed with the students that participate in this group.

TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

1. Robin Cleek would like to discuss privacy issues with Chromebooks.
2. Jayson Tran would like to discuss the special education timeline that was provided by Robbins Schwartz and would like to see something similar prepared for Hawthorn families.

ADJOURNMENT – Sonali Patil asked for a motion to adjourn the Business Meeting. Julie Simpson made a motion to adjourn the Business Meeting. Robin Cleek seconded.

Sonali Patil called for a Voice Vote

Motion carried: 7 ayes; 0 nay

The Regular Business Meeting adjourned at 9:46 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Peterson*



Sonali Patil, President



Wes Polen, Secretary

Date Minutes Approved: 11/27/17