

**Minutes of the Special Business Meeting of the
Board of Education of Hawthorn Community Consolidated District Number 73, Lake County, Illinois
held in the Gymnasium at Hawthorn Elementary North, 301 Hawthorn Parkway, Vernon Hills, IL 60061
at 7:00 p.m. on the 5th day of April 2018.**

CALL TO ORDER

Sonali Patil called the Special Business Meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

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

John Langelund, HEA President acted as the moderator. Jason Lembke, principal architect with the DLR Group was also in attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENT - No one chose to comment.

PRESENTATION

Board President Sonali Patil provided opening remarks and a welcome to the community stakeholders who were present at the meeting and watching via the YouTube channel.

Members of the School Board provided an updated presentation on current enrollment trends and current space constraints, programming and growth, the proposed new kindergarten building at the Sullivan Center, expansion plans, budgets and tough decisions the community will have to face. At the conclusion of the presentation, President Patil opened the floor for community discussion through a Town Hall style session of questions/answers.

Question & Answers:

What is the future capacity if we do the improvements? Do we have enough space for the kids that are coming? Why is south so overcrowded? Is there any way we can move kids around?

Jayson Tran explained that the plan can be found on the district webpage and has been presented before. Each building has the current capacity listed and what the capacity would be after renovation. The renovations will take the district through 2026. Robin Cleek addressed the overcrowding on the south campus. Generational turnover has been seen in the Deerpath neighborhood. As a Board, there has not been discussion on boundary changes. Previously it was very difficult on the community to move kids around. The new neighborhoods have already been shifted to other buildings.

Elementary North looks like they are under capacity, but the building is not. Matt Jacobs can you further explain this and talk about special services?

Elementary North has the special education LOP program for kindergarten through 5th grade so that students experience less transitions. Classroom space of 25:1 is now reduced based on the LOP restrictions. 63 languages are spoken in the district and this requires ELL space.

How long will it be before the district outgrows the new space?

Mr. Brown explained that 10 years is about the longest accurate projection. Mr. Brown believes the district has a good handle on future growth and building based on the Kasarda Series C data and this provides the District with a little room. The master plan that was approved accommodated to 2026.

You are showing Series B and Series C on the demographic study. Was there a Series A? Why did the Board decide to go with Series C? Please explain how the money will be spent. The community should have the authority to approve

the spending in phases.

Yes, there was a Series A that reflected falling enrollment. Jayson Tran explained that for previous years the District was already above Series B enrollment numbers. Therefore, the Board went with actual enrollment numbers and Series C projections. The District has the ability to do the project in phases and after each phase the Board would re-evaluate the state of the District. Robin Cleek added that there are legal parameters on the ballot that specify how the funds are to be used.

What is the purpose of the meeting tonight? The PowerPoint presentation appears to be the same content that was shown in February. Are there actual suggestions for the phases? What does the Board want from the community?

Robin Cleek explained that the presentation was part repeat and part new information. The Board does not have a 100% plan and is taking feedback from the community and trying to ascertain what the community would support. The Board is trying not to reinvent the wheel and is utilizing all information.

Regarding the original plans, the one that was most supported was around \$52 million to build on the vacant land and add on to buildings, yet the Board decided that the community was wrong and put out a different referendum. You asked the community what they wanted and the Board put out a totally different referendum. Will the next plan be Board supported or community supported?

Sonali Patil stated that there was not overwhelming support of this plan, however, it was definitely what the Core Team proposed. The plan that the Board chose was a hybrid of something the Core Team did present. The Board felt that it was more fiscally responsible to present Option B. Members of the community argued that there was public support for Option A over B.

What is the current plan? Some of the buildings have needs now.

The only short-term option is to add portable classrooms, cut programming and increase class sizes.

Are we going to be sitting here 8 years from now asking for more money? Are we spending the money correctly and are we planning correctly for growth? Are we going to have an empty building?

Jayson Tran addressed the question. Back in 2003 the decision was made to build Townline Elementary to house 900 students. Now, 13 years later we are out of space. At the time, the Board did the best job they could do with the information that they had. Nobody has a crystal ball to look into the future. We know we have new communities under construction and empty-nesters selling homes. Robin Cleek added that the current Board does not want to put the next Board in a position that they have to go back to the community and ask for money.

Events of today (soft lockdown), if we don't move forward with plans, what happens to students who are in a portable during a soft lockdown?

Robin Cleek noted that the soft lockdown was not an imminent threat and the students were not at an increased risk while in the portable.

Were there kids in the portables during the lockdown?

Mr. Brown believed all students were inside the main building. If the kids were in the portables they would have remained during that time.

Programming – this can actually be day-to-day curriculum not just special programming – discuss how this works?

Mr. Brown explained that a building could change the schedule so that kids are rotating through specials at a reduced number of minutes per class. The District is also looking at small group instruction time.

Final thoughts:

Ms. Patil thanked the community for coming out and attending the meeting. Please encourage your neighbors to attend the

next community engagement meeting at Elementary South on April 17th.

John Langelund, HEA President and Middle School South social worker, on behalf of the teachers, we have been living through this process for several years. The teachers have done a very nice job adapting to the space and they do see a need to do something before the next voting cycle. Whatever the plan that the community comes up with, the teachers will support; they recognize the need that something needs to be done.

Mrs. Cleek encouraged neighbors to invite neighbors who do not have children to come and attend the next meeting. Please encourage them to visit the website, join a meeting or call with questions. Their feedback is important. Facebook is not an effective way to communicate your feedback.

Mr. Tran proposed a homework assignment to the community. The Board is not tied to the plan, create a plan that makes sense to you, explain what is missing from the current plan and what you consider to be too much. Help the Board design a plan that is right for the community.

Ms. Patil added that Option B is a holistic plan that touched on everything. If there is a different financial number that the community will support just remember that anything lower than the original \$42 million that was presented will affect how much can be accomplished. Please do not go after the new Board in 5 years if they have to come back to the community because they have new needs that weren't able to be fixed.

ADJOURNMENT

Sonali Patil requested a motion to close the Business Meeting.

Robin Cleek moved that the Board of Education adjourn the Special Business Meeting. Wes Polen seconded.

Voice Vote:

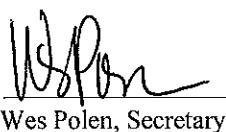
Motion carried: 5 ayes; 0 nays

The Special Business Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Peterson*



Sonali Patil, President



Wes Polen, Secretary

Date Minutes Approved: 4/23/18