

**Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting of Hawthorn Community Consolidated District #73, Lake County, Illinois conducted In-Person in accordance with Tier 3 Mitigation Requirements imposed through Executive Order 2020-73—reissued by Executive Order 2020-74
Meeting Location: Hawthorn Middle School North**

7:00 p.m. on the 9th day of September

CALL TO ORDER

President Robin Cleek called the Board of Education meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

The Board Secretary called attendance, and the following members attended in person: Joel Finfer, George Fievet, Michael Engle, Sonali Patil, Wes Polen, Karl Borchers and Robin Cleek. Also in attendance were the Asst. Supt. of Business & Finance Ms. LeeAnn Taylor; Asst. Supt. of Teaching & Learning Innovation Ms. Allison Stein, Asst. Supt. of Student Services, Ms. Alicia Corrigan, Asst. Supt. for Human Resources Mr. Adam Palmer and Superintendent Dr. Pete Hannigan.

RECOGNITION

Karl Borchers recognized the Vernon Hills Police Department for their support during arrival and dismissal times throughout the Hawthorn District 73 campus. Robin Cleek recognized the Village of Vernon Hills for allowing Hawthorn District 73 to use their facility during the previous board meetings.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was made or received via email.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements at this time.

PRESENTATIONS

CSBO LeeAnn Taylor presented enrollment data and projections provided by demographer John Kasarda. The presentation was given to indicate an overview of enrollment projections and bond issuance reports. A five-year facility plan, Design Development of Hawthorn Middle School South and Aspen, will be presented at the board meeting on September 23, 2021. The board discussion of bond issuance, facility plan, and enrollment projections will be discussed at the board meeting on October 7, 2021. The board will have the opportunity to approve the bonds for phase four and phase five construction at the board meeting on October 23, 2021. This summer, Hawthorn District 73 partnered with Vernon Hills High School District 128, Libertyville District 70, and Oak Grove District 68 to engage John Kasarda in an updated study. Previous reports were completed in 2013 and 2016. The updated report and enrollment projections will help inform building improvements and staffing decisions.

In the current report, Kasarda highlighted two main reasons for the declining enrollment. The number of students entering Kindergarten is significantly lower than the exiting 8th-grade students, and the number of students leaving the district is more than students transferring into the district. Kasarda stated in his report that he projects a rebound in Kindergarten enrollment due to a large number of citizens ages 65 and older moving away as neighborhoods turn over. Each Kasarda study demonstrates a series of projections that have been summarized into three series. Series A has enrollment trends that are less than currently anticipated; Series B has enrollment trends as presently anticipated; Series C has enrollment trends that are greater than anticipated. With enrollment this fall at 3,576 students, the district is currently projecting at the Series A level.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

CSBO LeeAnn Taylor introduced Elizabeth Hennessy to go over bond options for financing and debt infrastructure. Elizabeth presented previous interest rates before the pandemic and current tax and interest rates regarding the pandemic. The lowest rates historically were reported in August 2020 due to the pandemic. Discussion of the consideration of market analysis and interest rates combined with the timing of issuance should factor into the District's strategy moving in a forward direction. \$15.5 million for phases four and five is the final issue that keeps the repayment program three years shorter than the original promise in 2018. Evaluation of the bond issuance based on fund balances, federal funding, grant money and Kasarda report will aid in determining if all funds will be used. The debt structure proposes that combining the phases will help decrease the debt amount and pay off the debt three years earlier than anticipated. Elizabeth presented a timeline with the board for further discussion.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Hannigan reported that it is great to be back on campus. He gave a shout-out to the Vernon Hills Police Department and the Village of Vernon Hills for their continued support. He also recognized the Hawthorn Middle School North TRY students for hosting and giving tours of the new additions and renovations that evening.

The Superintendent's report consisted of two topics that included a transportation update and the COVID-19 Dashboard.

Hawthorn District 73 partners with Lakeside Transportation for all of their busing needs. Hawthorn District 73 was notified at 6:00 pm on Sunday, Aug. 22, that the national bus shortage would impact bus routes on Monday, Aug. 23. Traditionally Hawthorn District 73 utilizes a two-tier routing structure with most drivers running two routes each in the morning and afternoon, but the district was notified on Sunday, Aug. 22, that there would be a need to transition to a three-tier structure with drivers running three routes in the morning and afternoon. This change impacted all buildings but significantly affected the routes for Hawthorn Townline/Dual Language. We notified the Hawthorn Townline/Dual Language families on Sunday, Aug. 22, of the adjustment. The Department of Transportation conducted a bus safety inspection midday on Monday, Aug. 23, requiring Lakeside to utilize several reserve buses for the afternoon routes, further complicating the bus situation.

During this difficult time, Dr. Hannigan gave a special shout-out to the Vernon Hills Police Department, the Village of Vernon Hills, and all the Hawthorn District 73 families because the congestion on the roads had doubled because of the bus difficulties. Moving forward, Hawthorn District 73 and Lakeside Transportation have committed to communicating with families via email and text as soon as possible when learning that a bus is running 15 or more minutes late. Additionally, we will work toward eliminating a three-tier routing system and communicate to families with the update, send emails and text messages that are clear, including the name of the school and route impacted, and increase supervision times during arrival and dismissal. In response to the increased number of car riders and walkers, we changed arrival and dismissal procedures. Some of the changes include earlier arrival times for Hawthorn Townline/Dual Language, earlier dismissal time for car riders at Hawthorn Elementary North, and the intersection of Hawthorn Parkway and Aspen has two crossing guards instead of one. Dr. Hannigan made a public announcement to acknowledge the importance of being bumper to bumper while in the car line to ensure the car line is moving promptly. The Village of Vernon Hills captured drone footage to view the traffic pattern on the North campus on Wednesday, Aug. 25. The South campus had minor changes to its transportation procedures. These included opening the parking lot at Hawthorn Middle School South to 1:30 pm instead of 2:00 pm to minimize traffic congestion on Aspen and adding a crossing guard at the crosswalk on Aspen adjacent to the Sullivan Center for both arrival and dismissal times.

The next topic Dr. Hannigan presented was the update to the COVID-19 dashboard. As of Friday, Sept. 3, 16 students had been quarantined. Two staff members and 14 students have tested positive for COVID-19. Many of the students who tested positive were before the start of the school year. 55.5% of students have signed up for Shield testing, and 62% of students have signed up for Test-to-Stay. If the District is aware that your child has been identified as a close contact, the district will contact you via phone and letter. You also may be contacted by the Lake County Health Department. Local health departments are the final authority on identifying close contacts. The Hawthorn District 73 COVID-19 Dashboard is updated weekly every Friday by 3:00 pm instead of daily to ensure cleaner, accurate, and consistent data is reported.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Robin Cleek reported that there would be an IASB Lake Division meeting on Oct. 13, 2021. Any interested board members should contact Mrs. Flores for registration.

ED-RED REPORT

Mr. Joel Finfer reported that ED RED is an established organization that encourages many suburban public school districts to join together, focusing on education issues. There is an executive board retreat on Sept. 15, 2021, and an ED-RED luncheon on Sept. 24, 2021.

SEDOL REPORT

Mr. Michael Engle reported that SEDOL had a governing board meeting held immediately after a public hearing on August 25, 2021, regarding the fiscal year 21-22 budget. The final budget was presented with a motion to be approved. The overall tuition rate increased by 3%. The audit is at its final stages with no concerns. The collective bargaining agreement was extended and approved with the SEDOL teachers union. The SEDOL Foundation will host a "Making Strides" annual 5k fundraiser. Anyone interested can donate or participate. Information is posted on their website at sedolfoundation.org.

KEY to 73 REPORT

No report at this time.

SITE & FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT – Dr. Sonali Patil reported that Sites & Facilities met with Elizabeth Henessy to go over bond options. They also discussed plans by LEGAT and a five-year facilities plan that will be addressed at the next board meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 7.1 Board Meeting Minutes 08/12/21
- 7.2 Closed Session Minutes 08/05/21
- 7.3 Closed Session Minutes 08/12/21
- 7.4 Personnel Report

18 New Hires: Andie Sobotka, Physical Education Teacher, MN; Adelene Curcio, LBS1, ES; Colleen Hitzler, Enrichment Teacher, EN; Sarah Long, Adapted Physical Education Teacher, MN/MS; Jon Blaeser, LBS1, MS; Carolyn McGraw, Lunch/Recess Supervisor, TL; Pablo Garcia, Nurse, MN; Barbara Francart, Health Clerk, MN; Sandra Makosch, Office Clerk, ES; Anjanae Stieber, Nurse, MS; Ashley Cass, Health Clerk, MS; Lori Myers Opitz, Nurse, HSYL, Latanya Richards, Lunch/Recess Supervisor, HSYL; Elizabeth Gutierrez, Lunch/Recess Supervisor, HSYL; Sadaf Rahman, Lunch/Recess Supervisor, HSY; Gabriela Cervantes Vargas, Bilingual Family Liaison, DO; Jennifer Sotirovic, Lunch/Recess Supervisor, Aspen; Dana Hollister, Benefits & Business Office Specialist, DO

7 Resignations: Jaime Shroat, Physical Education Teacher, MN, 8/10/2021; Alicia Keaskowski, Lunch/Recess, EN, 8/4/2021; Haley Laliberte, 1:1 Instructional Assistant, MN, 8/14/2021; Raquel Coreas, ELL/Bil Instructional Assistant, AE, 8/12/2021; Saadia Sharuddin, Lunch/Recess, TL, 8/23/2021; Nausheen Adeel, Lunch/Recess, TL, 8/27/2021; Mary Bowers, 1:1 Instructional Assistant, EN, 9/17/2021

6 Leave of Absence: Sara Preis, Kindergarten Teacher, HSYL; Erin Feinberg, 8th Grade Language Arts Teacher, MN; Carrie Young, ESL Teacher, ES; Erin Schneider, Kindergarten Teacher, HSYL; Heather Swiecicki, 3rd Grade Teacher, TL; Modesta Rodriguez, 1:1 Instructional Assistant, MS

1 Change of Status: Supatra Baker, PreK Instructional Assistant at Lincoln

The Open and Closed Minutes from Aug. 12, 2021, were pulled from the Consent Agenda to vote on them separately as not all of the board members attended the Aug.12, 2021 Board of Education meeting.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: Wes Polen moved that the Board of Education approve the **Open and Closed Minutes from August 12, 2021**, as presented; seconded by Karl Borchers.

Roll Call Vote: Wes Polen, Sonali Patil, Robin Cleek, George Fievet, Michael Engle, and Karl Borchers. Joel Finfer abstained.
Motion carried:6 ayes; 1 abstain

RECOMMENDED MOTION: Wes Polen moved that the Board of Education approve the remaining **Consent Agenda** items as presented; seconded by Michael Engle.

Roll Call Vote: Wes Polen, Sonali Patil, Robin Cleek, George Fievet, Michael Engle, Karl Borchers, and Joel Finfer.
Motion carried: 7 ayes; 0 nays

CSBO Ms. LeeAnn Taylor explained the four action items on tonight's agenda. According to School Code, the Teacher and Administrator Compensation Report legally needs to be posted by September of each year. After approval, the District will post the compensation report on the website. The tentative budget was presented in the June board meeting, a hearing in August, and

tonight will be requesting approval. The budget this evening projects an \$890,000 surplus; however, at these uncertain times, it is necessary to remember that the budget is a tentative plan, and actual revenues and expenditures may vary. The finance department seeks approval for next year's budget calendar to start working on the next budget cycle, with a levy presented at the October board meeting. The last action item is requesting approval for the lowest bidder for the Elementary South Athletic Flooring. The lowest bidder is the same company that renovated Hawthorn Middle North and South's athletic flooring, and the same product will be used.

ACTION ITEMS

Teacher and Administrator Compensation

MOTION: Wes Polen moved that the Board of Education approve the Teacher and Administrator Compensation; Karl Borchers seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Wes Polen, Sonali Patil, Robin Cleek, Joel Finfer, George Fievet, Michael Engle and Karl Borchers.

Motion carried: 7 ayes; 0 nays

Final 2021-2022 Budget

MOTION: Wes Polen moved that the Board of Education approve the Final 2021-2022 Budget; George Fievet seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Wes Polen, Sonali Patil, Robin Cleek, Joel Finfer, George Fievet, Michael Engle and Karl Borchers.

Motion carried: 7 ayes; 0 nays

Approval of the 2022-2023 Budget Calendar and persons to work on the 2022-2023 Budget

MOTION: Wes Polen moved that the Board of Education approve the Approval of the 2022-2023 Budget Calendar and persons to work on the 2022-2023 Budget; George Fievet seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Wes Polen, Sonali Patil, Robin Cleek, Joel Finfer, George Fievet, Michael Engle and Karl Borchers.

Motion carried: 7 ayes; 0 nays

Elementary South Athletic Flooring

MOTION: George Fievet moved that the Board of Education approve the Elementary South Athletic Flooring; Karl Borchers seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Wes Polen, Sonali Patil, Robin Cleek, Joel Finfer, George Fievet, Michael Engle and Karl Borchers.

Motion carried: 7 ayes; 0 nays

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Enrollment
2. FOIA Log, Dr. Hannigan reported that the District received two FOIA requests since the last board meeting, and both have been responded to as identified in Section 9.2 of the Board agenda.

3. Board Email Log
 4. Media Clips
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TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

Robin will include the social media conversation in her President's report for the Sept. 23, 2021 Board Meeting, and the Board will discuss it at that time.

ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION –

Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2), Robin Cleek *read the motion(s) to adjourn to CLOSED SESSION for the purposes of:*

Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2).

With no further business to discuss, Wes Polen *made a motion to adjourn to Closed Session, seconded by Michael Engle. Meeting adjourned to Closed Session. All in favor? Yes.*

Motion carried: 7 ayes; 0 nays

Reconvened back to open session at 8:23 pm with a motion to approve the MOU Agreement with Hawthorn Education Association.

Recommend Approval of MOU with Hawthorn Education Association

MOTION: Wes Polen moved that the Board of Education approve the MOU with Hawthorn Education Association; George Fievet seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Wes Polen, Sonali Patil, Robin Cleek, Joel Finfer, George Fievet, Michael Engle and Karl Borchers.

Motion carried: 7 ayes; 0 nays

With no further business to discuss, Wes Polen *made a motion to adjourn the Open Session; seconded by Michael Engle, the meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m. All in favor? Yes.*

Motion carried: 7 ayes; 0 nays

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica Flores

Robin Cleek, President

George Fievet, Secretary

Date Minutes Approved: _____